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ISSUE 846

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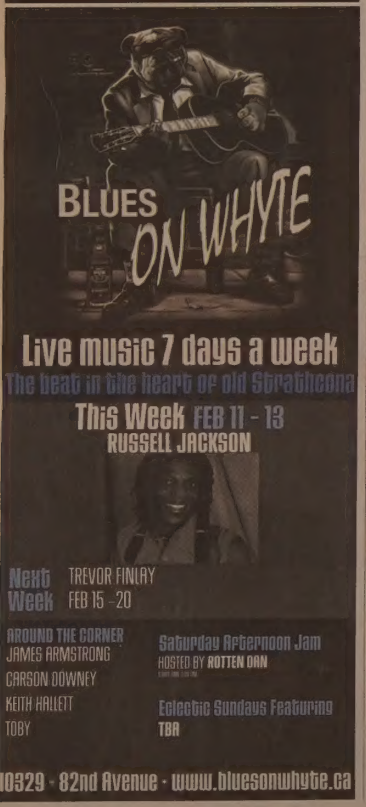
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COVERS 6

A MAN'S EYE VIEW OF 21ST CENTURY DATING

A mostly tongue-in-cheek guide to finding Ms. or Mr. Right. It's not really all that difficult, is it?

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NEWS BRIEFS

COMMENTARY • STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

WE'RE NO. 2

Edmonton is Canada's second most "sustainable" large city, Toronto magazine *Corporate Knights* reports. Sustainability, according tii the magazine, is defined as "the ability of individuals and communities to fourish without contributing tii the progressive degradation of the human and natural sytems on which we depend." No. 1 is Toronto. No. 3 is Calgary.

PALIN COMIN' TO CALGARY

And speaking of the third most sustainable large city in Canada, as if you needed another reason not to visit Calgary, ex-Republican VP nominee Sarah Palin will be droppin' her Gs there next month is a speakin' engagement. As one of the organizers says, "this is a Republican town." Seriously? Oil men in suits are Republicans?

CAN A FIRE BE IRONIC?

The little town of Baie Verte, N.L., finds itself without a volunteer fire department. The town's firehall, which housed a nearly new fire engine, burned to the ground last week. When the fire was first spotted, the mayor tried to activate the emergency fire system from his home, which would have summoned the volunteer firefighters. Unfortunately, the system was inside the burning fire station, and it didn't work.

VACCINE COMES CLEAN

In 1998, the British medical journal *The Lancet* published an article by Dr. Andrew Wakefield that linked childhood vaccines to autism. The article caused a sensation, and in London alone the vaccine rate dropped from 1[illegible] per cent to less than 50 a decade later, resulting in a surge in measles, mumps and rubella. Well, it turns out that the doctor who wrote the study was also secretly working for a company that was making a rival vaccine, and that he had been paid more than 400,000 pounds by a British trial lawyers for trying to prove the vaccines were unsafe. In its most recent edition, the Lancet officially retracted the article, and the British General Medical Council has condemned Dr. Wakefield for acting dishonourably and irresponsibly.

What are the chances you'll hear about this on Oprah?

LEGAL BEAGLES

The Swiss — who have already changed their constitution to protect the 'dignity' of plant life, and have given rights to canaries and goldfish — will hold a referendum next month on whether domesticated creatures should have the right to be represented by lawyers in court. By the way, in the canton of Zurich, it is against the law for "social animals" like guinea pigs and goldfish to be left alone. If you don't find a mate for Nibbles or Goldie, you can be hauled into court.

EVERYTHING MUST GO

Looking to relocate? A former Soviet military town called Skrunda-1, in Latvia, is up for sale. Yep, the whole town. Latvia's state privatization agency put the town up for bids last week, with a starting price of $300,000. No word yet on if there were any takers.

—*Maurice Tougas*

> THERE WAS SOMETHING FLATTERING ABOUT BEING "CHECKED OUT," BUT I WAS PERTURBED THAT IT **DIDN'T SEEM TO RESULT IN MUCH CONTACT.**

MODERN DATING | COVER STORY

Lily Tsui checks out her e-mail in Cafe Dabar. PHOTO BY MERVI SMITH-LAWTON/FERE PHOTOGRAPHY

Online Dating

YEARS REMOVED FROM THE DATING GAME, WRITER FINDS IT'S A WHOLE NEW ONLINE WORLD

BY **LILY TSUI**

Getting back into dating was terrifying.

I met my ex when I was 19, married him when I was 22, separated six months before I turned 30. After adjusting to being single again for a while, I decided I was ready to contemplate dating. Nothing too serious — just wanted to see who was out there.

The dating landscape had changed significantly in a decade. I used to think online dating was for basement dwellers who were too scared to meet people in the real world, but these days looking for a match online is the new normal.

Of the many online dating portals available to me, I chose Plenty of Fish because a) a lot of girlfriends went that route, and none of them had been murdered yet; b) its interface annoyed me the least; and c) it's free and I had this idea that having to pay for something like this made me more desperate, at least in my own eyes.

Writing a profile seemed pretty easy. They had specific questions where you chose from a dropdown list of answers.

Then it was profile-browsing time. It's like online catalogue shopping for men! There were options in advanced search that let me sort by distance from my postal code, education level, hair color, height, body type … I wasn't really all that picky about most of those things, so I only used what I considered to be deal-breaker questions at first: I screened out smokers, and people who chose "often" under drug use and drinking. This resulted in HUNDREDS of results. Yay! I thought. So many to choose from!

Yeah, well, having hundred of profiles to go through isn't all that it's cracked up to be. I found myself doing what I never thought I'd do. I didn't bother to even glance at profiles belonging to people that didn't catch my eye in their chosen profile pic, and the profile pics being displayed were less than an inch tall. Of the profiles I actually bothered to pull up, I would skim through and with few exceptions, dismiss them after less than 30 seconds.

After about 45 minutes of this, I had an epiphany: Holy shit, I'm shallow! Is this screening process how I want someone else to dismiss MY profile?? Although I was slightly disturbed by my newly discovered shallowness, there wasn't much I could do about it, but there was something I could do about my profile. I went back and rewrote it, borrowing ideas from profiles I found myself interested in.

I discovered the "who viewed you" function was both a blessing and a curse. There was something flattering about simply being "checked out", but then, given the insane number of views, I was slightly perturbed that they didn't seem to result in much contact. No problem, I'm not scared to do the approaching, I decided. So I started sending off a brief note to people that looked interesting to me. This resulted in a lot of surprised responses that suggested that women on Plenty of Fish rarely made first contact. Seriously? Even online, women are waiting for men to make the first move?

TWO-EDGED SWORD

Again, the built-in functionality of Plenty of Fish was a two-edged sword. It was nice to know when someone's read your note, but a little insulting when you see that they deleted it without reading. Mentioning it to a girlfriend, she said that the one thing she learned while online dating (and she'd count as a success, since she married someone she met online), was that you need to have a tough skin.

After a while, I got tired of trying to be creative when writing notes, since many resulted in no response, so I got lazy: I started adding people to my favorites list, since I would always look at a profile if someone added me to their favorites list, and I'd drop them a quick line if they looked like they were above threshold. This did actually work, and saved myself a lot of writing to non-responders.

I also became annoyed at being approached by people with whom I had nothing in common. Seeing some patterns among those profiles, I listed a bunch of "don't contact me if" criteria on my profile to potential dates: a) if you're high maintenance, as in it takes you more than 15 minutes to get from bed to out the door to work; b) your profile isn't filled with generic and boring adjectives such as "loyal", "honest", "sincere", "caring", and "big-hearted"; and c) your profile contains pictures of you trying to look cool with a drink in hand, showing off a big dead fish you just pulled out of the water, or not wearing a shirt.

Not wanting to waste time, I didn't bother with too much online chatter before I'd suggest an in-person meeting. This resulted in 20-plus first dates in six weeks time. And this was significant since that's more than four times the number of people I had gone out with in the first 30 years of my life.

At first, several girlfriends expressed concerns about stranger danger. On my very first date with someone I met online, my friend Peggy insisted that I call as I was heading to dinner, after I was safely in my car (alone), and when I got home. I complied, but the number and frequency of subsequent dating adventures meant that that sort of vigilance was impossible, so I just went with a few basic rules like meeting in a public space and not being dependent on others for transportation for first meetings.

THE DATES BEGIN

The first few dates were exciting. I wasn't shy, and meeting people was always fun for me, so there wasn't a lot of nerves to deal with. It started to get more complicated when I was still going out on new first dates and old first dates started contacting me for second dates … and then third dates started overlapping with second dates … and I realized I was in a minor crisis situation: I couldn't remember what I wore on dates with people anymore.

So I came up with a system. I had a first date sweater (that had a sexy but not skanky neckline) that I wore different bottoms with (I could have, in theory, had the exact same outfit, but I didn't want to wear the exact same thing to Da Capo three or four times a week, since going to my favorite coffee shop was also part of my first date script). I had a second date sweater dress. Third dates were casual and involved meeting my dog — because if someone didn't get on well with my dog, it'd be a deal breaker anyways, so why waste time beyond three dates?

I learned a lot in those six weeks. I didn't know, until I was sifting through hundreds of profiles, that I apparently had a thing for redheads and glasses. Related to that, I realized that I formed impressions of people based on precious little information, which meant my expectations were usually off, although fortunately, most of the surprises were pleasant, other than one asshole who did nothing but complain about how much he hated Edmonton (dude, if you hate it so much, please leave, or at least not subject women to your incessant whining). I was almost disappointed at the lack of complete crazies; I wanted to have some decent stories about crazy people to tell, but I really don't have any. By and large, all the men I met were very nice people, looking for someone special.

I learned that Chris was an insanely popular name among men my age. I went out on six dates in a row with men named Chris. A girlfriend said I'd also go through a Matt and a Shaun phase, but I guess I never got around to them.

I also discovered that Edmonton is a small city in terms of the singles population. I constantly came across profiles of single men I knew. In one instance, I was so appalled at a friend's profile that I sent him a Facebook message and offered to rewrite it for him. He turned down my offer, but said he wasn't insulted. On the other hand, I haven't seen him in while … uh oh.

I discovered that one of my dates went to high school with an acquaintance of mine. He's the reason why I stopped going on endless first dates, and we're taking our time to see where this goes, despite the fact that throughout our entire first date I thought his name was Randy even though his actual name was Jason (I was talking to a Randy online in the same week and I just got confused).

Would I have met him if not for online dating? Although we were only separated by one degree of separation, it's unlikely that we would have met. I think that getting into the online dating scene was a good choice for me, even if it took a bit of adjusting after 10 years off the market. If you've never tried online dating before, I suggest that you give it a go; and if you're already fishing online, may I wish you luck as we approach this Valentine's Day that you catch what you're looking for. Happy fishing!

FOR A MAN'S POINT OF VIEW ON MODERN DATING, SEE PAGE 6

MODERN DATING · COVER STORY

A Man's Eye View of 21st Century Dating

A MOSTLY TONGUE-IN-CHEEK GUIDE TO FINDING MS. OR MR. RIGHT. IT'S NOT REALLY ALL THAT DIFFICULT, IS IT?

BY TRENT WILKIE

The problem with dating is that people take it too seriously. The ultimate goal of any date should be to simply find a person you can spend the rest of your living existence together. No big deal when you think about it. How to meet people, attire, conversation and future dates all sounds complicated, but they are not: either your pheromones congeal, or they don't. So, to confuse things a bit more, I will offer my insights into the vapid and totally unreliable world of dating. You are welcome.

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT MILLARD

MEETING PEOPLE

The bar of the 21st century is the Internet. Dating websites are a dime a dozen with basically the same people, just on different sites. The free ones are the best because, as everyone knows, single people are inherently cheap. Plenty of Fish and OKCupid are free and popular. Remember, everyone is a sex god in front of their computer; meeting in person is the only way to deem relevance to misshotkittyluvwallet or captainawesomebuffstork.

If you go to the bar to meet your mate keep in mind that people don't go to bars to meet anyone, they go to pretend to be unattainable. And most of the time if you do end up going home with someone it is because you were too pissed drunk to make a proper decision, or the person you take home was. So stay at home, go on the Internet, take a high angle shot of yourself making a kissy face and you are halfway to having an awkward first impression e-mail conversation. It's better than blowing cash at a club just to go home and take advantage of yourself.

CONVERSATION

The hardest part of the first date is talking to a shy person. Sometimes no matter what you say, do, or throw against the wall, they remain uncomfortably silent. In this situation, I try to entertain myself. For example, I like to explain about how when I wanted to be a helicopter when I was a child, or how I don't like eating fish because they don't have emotions and are therefore untrustworthy. Remember, there is a difference between entertaining yourself and trying to gauge the sense of humour of your date. What you really want to do is create and air of honesty. Some say honesty is the best policy, but if you want there to be a second date, my opinion is that shut up is the best policy. If you start talking about your bowel movements or how you are sexually attracted to fire you are screwed. Ask her where she got her shoes, ask him where he got his neck tattoo of Jesus crying on the beach. That should get the ball rolling.

ATTIRE

If you show up in your unrealistic best, they will expect that all the time. Be comfortable. Personally, I like to dress for the weather with a little style. Something that is nice, but if I had to flee for my life, I could do so in comfort. Sometimes I'll mix it up just to gauge reaction. So, when I show up with a cape, a tall staff, a small scabbard, two greyhounds, a wedding veil and the key to the city around my neck, I can say, "Hey baby, this is who I really am. And if you don't like it, you can hit the bricks." If they stay, impregnate or get impregnated. This person is worth your time.

SECOND DATE AND BEYOND

This is where people start to see the real you, the blemishes and scars, the farts and the stars. At this point it's all chemistry. Logic dictates that from here on it, it is really out of your control. But, logic is for Vulcan losers, so be you. Do those weird things that you like to do. No, not pee in the shower, but the interesting stuff. Remember, don't go all the way. Nobody likes opening their presents before Christmas. Trying to build a relationship after already having sex is like opening a beautifully wrapped box and saying, "Oh, yeah, socks. What a non-surprise."

At this point it is OK to be a bit judgmental. If he treats the wait staff like shit, ditch him. If she can't stop texting, start running. Life is too short so spend it with nimrods.

But remember this. We all die alone. No matter who you are with at the time, death is a singular experience. Either of you will die leaving the other with an amputated feeling. And this my friends, is what you want. You want to find that person who you will miss, or will miss you, for all eternity. Godspeed.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"THIS KIND OF BUDGET MAY PLAY WELL IN VEGAS, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO PLAY WELL IN VEGREVILLE.

— David Swann, leader of the Alberta Liberals, commenting on the provincial budget
Quoted in the Edmonton Journal Feb. 10.

BUDGET KEEPS THE BIG BOYS HAPPY

The provincial budget handed down on Tuesday is an intriguing, often contradictory document.

Despite pre-budget fears that the slash-and-burn Tories of old were making a comeback under the direction of alleged fiscal conservative, Finance Minister Ted Morton, Alberta will in fact run up a huge deficit — this time a record $4.7 billion. Total government spending will increase 4.1 per cent to $38.7 billion, also a record and, as always, the highest per capita spending of any province in the country.

While education and health care were quaking in their boots waiting for the axe to fall, Morton surprised everyone by jacking up funding to both portfolios. Increases in health funding are eye-popping — a one-time debt repayment of $759 million, and a budget increase of 17 per cent, or $1.7 billion. In education, the government's second largest expenditure, funding will increase $43 million.

So spending in the two biggest — most politically sensitive government departments — goes up. Another $1.7 billion for health care should go a long way to satisfying doctors, nurses, and the public, while millions more for education — and the startling six-per-cent increase in teacher salaries — will ensure another vocal group will be pacified.

Substantial increases to health and education mark the official end of the Ralph Klein influence on the party. While Klein was running the show, health care and education were popular whipping boys, and Klein seemed intent on reining in their spending. Ed Stelmach, on the other hand, has seen the light. It's clearly not worth the political pounding the Tories would take from nurses, doctors, teachers and the public if they cut back on health and education. The message from the new Tories is: you want it, you got it.

But in other government departments, things are much different.

While most of the early post-budget discussion has centered on health care and education, there have been substantial cuts to 14 other departments, as the Tories found $1.3 billion in savings (falling short of their $2 billion promise).

Advanced Education is chopped by $205 million, which likely means tuition hikes and other cost increases for students. Children and Youth Services loses $36 million. Culture is cut by $35 million, a whopping 15-per-cent decrease. Housing and urban affairs is cut by $112 million. Environmental initiatives, like the development of new methods of public transit and the scientifically dubious carbon capture and storage plan, have been scaled back to the point where there will be virtually no progress in either area this year.

What will these cuts mean to the average Albertan? The devil is in the details, and only when the legislature gets down to detailed reading and discussion of budget documents will we know the impact of the cuts.

By increasing funding to its two most sensitive portfolios, the Tories are buying public peace, without having to make hard decisions. The Tories are also banking on a return to good times via the government's favourite piggy banks, oil and gas. The deficit will give way to a surplus when the beleaguered pillars of our economy shore up.

The strategy appears to be to take a few minor hits from less vocal groups in order to keep the peace in the health and education sectors. An interesting strategy from an interesting document.

BY THE NUMBERS · TEMPTATIONS

DECK
SOURCE: HARLEQUIN ROMANCE REPORT 2010

MOST TEMPTED TO HOOK UP WITH A FRIEND'S SIGNIFICANT OTHER
Canadian Men: 54%
Brazilian Men: 50%

MOST TEMPTED BY FOOD
French Woman: 43%
French Men: 87%

TEMPTED TO WISH FOR THE FAILURE OF MORE SUCCESSFUL FRIENDS OR COLLEAGUES
Canadian Men & Women: 40% +

THINK LUSTING AFTER SOMEONE OTHER THAN THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER IS HARMLESS
Swedish Woman: 50% +

As the Stelmach gov't looks to live within its means...

POINT OF VIEW · OLYMPICS

Own The Podium ... Or Else

OUTSIDE POLITICS MAURICE TOUGAS

NO MORE MR. NICE COUNTRY AS CANADA GOES FOR THE GOLD — AND THE JUGULAR — IN VANCOUVER

The 15 official events of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games are: alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, nordic combined, short track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboarding, and speed skating.

The 15 official events Canadians are interested in at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games are: hockey, hockey, hockey, men's hockey, women's hockey, hockey, figure skating, men's curling, women's curling, hockey, hockey, hockey, everything else combined, and hockey.

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that Canada could claim its biggest medal haul in winter Olympic history, and our efforts would still be considered a failure if we don't take home the gold in men's hockey. In almost every other Olympic event in almost any other Olympics, Canadians would settle for silver. But in hockey, silver is for fillings. It's gold or nothing.

In fact, there is such an emphasis on hockey in this Olympics that it seems like the only reason Canada bid on the Olympics was so that we could have home ice advantage for hockey.

There will be more than enough sphincter-clinching pressure on Canada's men's and women's hockey teams that it should deflect attention away from pretty much every other Canadian athlete. Nobody is going to be tearing their hair out and going on drunken binges if Canada fails to bring home a gold in biathlon, but failure in hockey will result in a national funk worse than when Team Canada crapped the bed in Turin in 2006, where we finished a shameful seventh overall.

This is not to say that Canadian athletes will not be under scrutiny during the games. There is more collective pressure on all Canadian athletes to bring home the hardware than in any previous Olympics, and this is a good thing. It might actually produce something called 'results.'

This is a pivotal Olympics for Canada. In much the same way Canada's presence in Afghanistan has transformed our armed forces — and our opinion of them — major success in Vancouver will be a turning point in Canada's relationship with the Olympic games. Canada's dirty little Olympic shame is that we are the only country to have failed to win a gold medal when hosting an Olympic games — no gold in the Montreal summer games, no gold in the Calgary winter games. With the Olympic movement's boast to "own the podium", the Canadian sports fan will expect — nay, demand — something to show for the $100 million we've poured into our Olympic program. This is a dramatic departure from Canada's usual Olympic attitude, when can be summed up in two words: nice try.

If Canada has a great Olympics, it will be similar to the Australian comeback in the summer Olympics.

When Australia, the greatest jock nation in the world, failed to win a gold medal at the summer Olympics of 1976, the country went on an Olympic improvement bender. They chose the East German system of a centralized, government-sponsored sports system, and it worked. (This is probably the only good thing to

TOUGAS cont'd on pg. 8

POINT OF VIEW • OLYMPICS

Vancouver Olympics Is Nothing To Be Proud Of

HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY

CANADA DESERVES A GOLD MEDAL FOR MOST ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS BY A HOST COUNTRY

The Vancouver 2010 Olympics is the most brazen foreign invasion this country's choked down since the Europeans showed. Unfortunately, it's also an ugly snapshot of an impending corporate fascism — I really hate using that word, but it fits — that's slowly suffocating our diminishingly-democratic civilization. Keep your eyes and ears open, follow the money, and pay special attention to who's making the new rules, and especially what these restrictions ultimately say about us ... and how easily we fell for them.

It started out badly enough, as officials pushed through the narrative frame even before the bid was won, bringing on a kind of calculated tipping point which pre-emptively allows for no argument. The 2007 death of Squamish protester Harriet Nahanee after being jailed for disrupting a highway link between Vancouver and Whistler polarized native activism, but the eagle-huggers never had a chance.

Note how the ubiquitous Olympic ad — the one that doesn't show giant CGI athletes stepping all over their own cities to force the continents back into a pretend Pangaea — shows a new-owner-proud of well-dressed Uncle Tom Jacksons, busy working their totem poles into shape, smiling away because, as each of you well knows, we all live in perfect, racial harmony in Canada. What a fucking joke. No surprise the term "sell-out chiefs" is all over native blogs.

But this is what the Olympics do. Above any and all indigenous concerns, they get their way, selling us back what we "already own" in the name of a schizophrenic mix of boasting regional pride — 'we were made for this' — and meaningless, quasi-internationalism that won't actually stick. Remember all that complaining during the summer Olympics about how China was, well, being China? Jaw-dropping money is being spent on security at the same time arts funding has been utterly decimated.

Creating absolutely nothing of any value that doesn't already exist for free, yet charging for and regulating to levels that would make communist China blush, this "sports event" is, as most of you know down deep, a behind-the-scenes heavily armed, suspicious, turkey-fisting of white-washed ideals that at the very least hardly feel Canadian at all. Never mind the highway debacle. How about the deliberate and openly-admitted tucking away of homeless where they can't be seen for the duration of the Games? Because it's illegal to sleep on the streets in Vancouver now, people (and they are people) who maybe don't play so well with others because of things like mental illness, despondence from falling off the radar — even complete shame — are all forced into tidy little petri dishes at night to interact with each other. That sounds like fun! No, really, it's not "jail," it's just a place with guards you can't leave at your own will. How is this happening? As anti-Olympic activist Chris Shaw puts it, "If you have that boundless energy to stage this party where is the money and the energy and the dedication to deal with the major social problem of our city?"

I'M ALL OVER INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT — IT'S SUBLIME. BUT BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO'S COMPLETELY ACCIDENTALLY FROM THE SAME COUNTRY AS YOU BEATS ANOTHER PERSON WHO'S NOT, AND A SINGLE NUMBER IS SUBSEQUENTLY ACCRUED, IS THIS WORTH SELLING OUT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY ACTUALLY STANDS FOR?

Beyond petty stories of us not letting foreign athletes practise on official sites and a general, we deserve gold for arrogance I certainly don't remember from Calgary in '88, you can't even use the name of our fucking country on a piece of local merchandise without getting static from roving copyright enforcement police because, of course, as I've been saying, Olympic spirit must be paid for. It's creepy, ugly and evil — from state-censoring what a Vancouverite can put in the windows of their own homes to how many minutes non-sponsoring TV networks can show of official sites, to the extremely ominous suspension of freedom of speech — anyone who wants to protest can only do in city-sanctioned "free-speech zones." Just this week, American tourists coming are being encouraged by their government to phone the police if they see anything at all suspicious in, again, our country. "Americans are advised to avoid any areas of public protest," a Department of State security issue says. This, amid debate of holding 'suspicious characters' without charge, indefinitely.

And all for what, honestly? Statistics? A distraction? I'm all over individual achievement — it's sublime. But because someone who's completely accidentally from the same country as you beats another person who's not, and a single number is subsequently accrued, is this worth selling out what your country actually stands for? What are you, five? Or just fucking blind?

TOUGAS (cont'd from p. 7)

come out of East Germany.) In the 1976 summer games in Montreal, Australia won a sickly total of eight medals. In the 2008 Games in Beijing, the Aussies took home 46. Not too shabby for a country with a smaller population than Canada.

Canada is coming off its best ever winter Olympics — 24 medals — so in a normal Olympic year, nobody would be expecting an improvement on our all-time best medal haul. But this is no normal Olympics. We're going to OWN THE PODIUM, DAMMIT. Canada has put more effort into this Olympics than any in history, and anything less than 24 medals should be considered a failure. The official goal, by the way, is 35.

I like this new Canadian attitude. For years, we've sent athletes to summer and winter Olympics with no hope or expectation of results. It was often enough just for our athletes to "experience" the Olympics. That might work in some summer Olympic sports, but not in winter.

If we can't compete with an expectation of winning, or at least finishing in the top five, then I say we don't go. We should be competitive in pretty much every Olympic sport, even the trendy sports like snowboarding, that was included in the Olympics to appeal to the stoner demographic. We should be good at ridiculous sports like skeleton, which is essentially face-first high speed tobogganing (What Canadian kid hasn't done that at least once?) We probably won't do well in figure skating this year, but I don't care; figure skating is more politics than sports.

We've even gotten kind of dickish like in our zeal to win, denying foreign athletes extensive use of the Whistler sliding track while our athletes have been using it for two years. This may not be very nice of us, but there are no medals for congeniality.

Are we putting too much pressure on our Canadian athletes? Not at all. This little winter sports gathering is costing us outrageous amounts of money. The least we should expect in return in a whole whack of medals. Preferably gold.

FEB. 9, 2009 | 4:14 PM | PHOTO BY JOHN ULAN/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Alberta Finance Minister, Ted Morton, right, is greeted by Premier Ed Stelmach prior to delivering his government's 2010/2011 budget at the legislature.

DINING · REVIEW

Delux Burger Bar Lives Up To Its Name

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR WHEN YOU GO TO A BURGER JOINT WITH A NAME LIKE DELUX

DELUX BURGER BAR
9862-142nd St., 780-420-0101

BY SCOTT LINGLEY

A good burger is so subjective, don't you find? I think that, like the occasionally random things that provoke arousal, your burger preferences are imprinted by early experiences your conscious mind can't even retrieve. Those formative burgers, whether scarfed at a hockey rink concession stand, gas station diner or cookie cutter franchise, are the Platonic ideal we unconsciously long for whenever we order a ground beef/chicken/fish sandwich, no matter where we search on the continuum of from-frozen fast food junk to gourmet patty on an artisan roll with fig relish, frisée and herbed chèvre.

In that respect, Delux Burger Bar in what we'll call the Crestwood strip mall (for the presiding fancy liquor outlet) skews to the more discerning (or at least better equipped with discretionary income) burger enthusiast. In contrast to similarly niched restaurants, including those under the same Century Hospitality Group umbrella, Delux keeps its bill of fare focused on food-on-a-bun, with a few appetizers, salads and, of course, dessert to round out the meal. Delux does pour a broad selection of wine, import and domestic beers and premium liquors in various combinations, and specials occur throughout the week. The $4 bottled domestic must, in part, account for the crowd we encountered last week, though Wednesday is also $2 slider night.

Delux's comfortable, vaulted interior manages to be both stylish and unimposing. The low din of conversation over a remote thud of background music is welcoming and youthful handsomes in black Ts and denims patrol the place with remarkable zeal, catering to whims and knowledgably extolling the charms of the present venue and other arms of the Century Hospitality Group. The co-diner and I certainly felt like we were in good hands as our server hipped us to the half-price wine special on Mondays.

People were sucking down two-dollar sliders – mini-burgers made with Kobe beef – on all sides, but we wanted a deeper trawl from the menu. We'd start by sharing the beet salad ($12), and chase it with one each of the Alberta burger ($12) and the Out of Water burger ($11). Now, Delux ain't the kind of place where $12 is going to get you a side with your burger, so you might as well try the Delux duo ($5.50) and get two kinds of fries (potato and sweet potato). Our server was particularly enthusiastic about our choice of salad.

THE TAB: $41 FOR TWO (FOOD ONLY)
THE GIST: GREAT BAR, GOOD BURGER
TRY THE: BEET SALAD, SURPRISINGLY
AVOID: THE STICKY AFTER-MEAL SWEETS

And with good reason. Two, count 'em, two kinds of tender glazed beets were sliced thin and layered through organic greens tossed with crunchy candied pecans, creamy orts of goat cheese, fresh dill and white balsamic vinaigrette. Even thoughtfully split across two plates it looked like a healthy portion.

This is where the subjective part comes in: the burgers arrived. Always keen to share, we sawed them each in half and swapped. I started with the Out of the Water burger which – did you guess? – was made with fish, Stella Artois-battered halibut to be precise. The fish was silken and ungreasy, the roll it came on fresh-baked, the condiment tartar-y, but the sum total didn't linger on the palate much after the last bite.

The Alberta Burger, January's celebrity burger of the month designed by Mary Bailey, editor of the stalwart foodie publication *Tomato* (formerly *City Palate*), consisted of top-notch Spring Creek Ranch sirloin and Sylvan Star gouda, horseradish-infused onions braised in Alley Kat scotch ale and horseradish and beet mayo. Lettuce or tomato would not have hurt and a stiffer dose of horseradish might have made that flavour stand out among its many competitors in that fresh-baked kaiser, but that's just one opinion. I thought the dominating beef and cheese tasted superb together, but my co-diner thought our homemade farmer's market bison burgers superior. The two-tone hand-cut fries arrived in a miniature novelty shopping cart.

Still it was a very pleasant dining-out experience, even after the appearance of the complementary cotton candy – two colours! – at the end of the meal. Batts of sticky spun sugar leave something to be desired as a digestif, as evidenced by the amount of the stuff left behind by departing diners.

Ironically my co-diner, who mildly disparaged the meal as sounding better on paper than in practice, was already plotting our next trip to Delux as we left, the better to take advantage of its drink specials and comfy environs. A good burger may be in the eye of the beholder, but apparently you can't argue about a good half-priced bottle of wine.

HEALTH · ADVICE

Potassium: The Overlooked Mineral You Need

HOLISTIC HEALTH 101 ROBERTA SHEPHERD

HERE'S WHY POTASSIUM IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOUR HEALTH

Potassium is an often overlooked mineral that is crucial to the functioning of all living things, right down to a cellular level. I say overlooked because in my practice I have discovered that about 85 per cent of clients I have seen for nutritional consultation are deficient in potassium. The deficiency is not severe, but enough that signs of deficiency may often be observed.

How is potassium valuable to the functioning of the human body?

Potassium works in close context with sodium and a finite system of pumps and channels in the body to control water balance, maintain healthy nervous and cardiovascular systems, support proper muscle contraction and manage the transfer of nutrients via cell membranes.

Why is potassium deficiency so prevalent?

First of all, the prevalence of an unbalanced diet amongst North Americans lines up quite perfectly with a lack of dietary potassium intake. Potassium deficiency is quite rare among those who consume a balanced diet including plenty of raw fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds. These things occur quite naturally on this planet after all – unlike microwaves, fast and processed foods, carbonated beverages and filtered cigarettes. (And speaking of the unnatural substances, excessive intake of caffeine and cigarettes reduces the absorption of potassium in the body.) Finally, and maybe the most prevailing reason as to why there is so much potassium deficiency, is that stress increases our body's need for potassium. All the more reason to learn to slow down and relax!

How can one successfully obtain a day's intake of potassium?

Good dietary sources of potassium are as follows: apricots, avocados, bananas, blackstrap molasses, brewer's yeast, brown rice, dates, dulse, figs, dried fruit, garlic, nuts, potatoes, raisins, winter squash, wheat bran and yams. Potassium is highly concentrated in plant cells, so although the above mentioned foods are especially good sources, potassium is found in all fresh fruits and vegetables.

Besides dietary intake, there is another way of raising potassium levels in the body. Sunchasers makes a product called 'Canadian Potassium Rock Bath' in a variety of colours and scents. Besides being a delectable bath item, it also facilitates the absorption of potassium into the body through the skin. It's as simple as putting eight-10 potassium rocks into your bath water on a regular basis. Still, when it comes to simply supplementing potassium in the diet, let me say that I am always hesitant to recommend supplementation, because all of the necessary nutrients, vitamins and minerals are readily available in nutritious foods. Furthermore, if we focus more on achieving a well balanced diet and less on supplementing our diet, chances are the multitude of health benefits will far outweigh the benefits of taking a single supplemental vitamin or mineral.

How will you know if you are deficient in potassium?

Indications of potassium deficiency can include varying degrees of: dry skin, acne, chills, constipation, diarrhea, cognitive impairment, edema, intolerance to glucose, depression, diminished reflexes, high cholesterol, thirst, low blood pressure, muscular fatigue and weakness, nervousness, fluctuations in heartbeat, growth impairment, respiratory distress, nausea and vomiting, protein in the urine, headaches and insomnia. If you or someone you know are displaying any or all of the above symptoms, there's a chance that potassium deficiency could be the culprit. A complete dietary analysis helps to establish just how much dietary potassium you are taking in on a daily basis and whether or not deficiency is an issue. Please consult a licensed holistic health practitioner for details.

By slowing down and smelling the flowers – and spending time preparing our own balanced and healthy meals – we can put an end to potassium deficiency.

Send your questions to Roberta at holistichealth101@gmail.com

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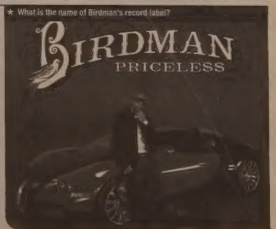

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> A FESTIVAL LIKE STEM CELL RUNS RESOLUTELY AGAINST THE GRAIN OF THE **AVERAGE MOVIEGOER'S EXPECTATIONS.**

METRO FESTIVAL · PREVIEW

Flick That Switch

From John Greyson's "The Medium of Medium: 14.3 Seconds" and Daniel Barrow's manual animation | PHOTO SUPPLIED

THE STEM CELL FESTIVAL SERVES UP A UNIQUE BRAND OF FILMMAKING THAT MOVES FAR PAST YOUR USUAL HOLLYWOOD FARE

STEM CELL FESTIVAL
Various Artists, presented by Metro Cinema, Mile Zero Dance and FAVA
Metro Cinema (Zeidler Hall, The Citadel), Feb. 11-14

BY **MICHAEL HINGSTON**

If you ask Marsh Murphy to define what an experimental documentary is, the executive director of Metro Cinema kind of sheepishly laughs, turns to his desk, and opens up a document on his computer. His answer to this type of question has been drafted in advance, and contains multiple paragraphs.

"A lot of my definitions are long," he says, "because I really feel the need to be careful."

Murphy's meticulousness – which is really just reverence for the work, when you get right down to it – is understandable. As one of the curators of the second STEM Cell festival, a four-day celebration of alternative storytelling through film, video, media art, and dance-on-screen, he wants to make sure these marginalized works are presented on their own terms. In this way Murphy seems almost like a parent, taking pains to describe his each of his child's particular quirks exactly the way they were told to him.

Here's the most pared-down definition he gives to describe what STEM Cell does: "It's about telling the truth in non-traditional ways."

Simple enough, right?

Well, yes and no.

It's simple because our understanding of what a medium like film is, and how it works, is severely limited. So disrupting it is actually the easiest thing in the world – just hold the camera perfectly still, don't cut the shot, and keep the dialogue muffled and half of the characters off-screen, as, say, Chris Chong Chan Fui does in his luminescent *Block B*, a 20-minute slice-of-life documentary about an apartment building in Malaysia. All of a sudden a brand new world opens before your eyes. Truth bleeds through in unexpected places.

And it isn't simple because ... well, it can be hard to get people to turn off that Hollywood switch inside their heads. Like many of the films Metro screens on a nightly basis, a festival like STEM Cell runs resolutely against the grain of the average moviegoer's expectations.

TURN OFF THE HOLLYWOOD SWITCH...

Once you've accepted that you're not going to see a romantic comedy in three acts, there's no shortage of delight to be had from the pieces Murphy has assembled. These films are funny, and beautiful, and smart, and thoroughly accessible.

Aside from the documentaries, which have been grouped into five different categories and include works from John Greyson and Tom Sherman, among others, STEM Cell will showcase a host of other experimental works, each of which playfully pushes at the boundaries of its given medium. Mile Zero Dance has curated a collection of dance-on-screen pieces – ie. dance performances that have been specifically composed for the screen – that explore the intersection of these two usually disparate forms. Winnipeg-based visual artist Daniel Barrow will be performing his acclaimed manual animation piece *Every Time I See Your Picture I Cry*. Drawing upon magic lantern techniques that pre-date cinema, Barrow uses live voice-over and sheets of acetate on an overhead projector to tell his story about a garbage man, his self-penned phone book, and the serial killer secretly pursuing them both.

"I like the nostalgic elements of obsolete technologies – I also like references in the classroom," Barrow says. "I enjoy the idea that anybody can create something elaborately beautiful using very simple and modest elements. I enjoy DIY esthetics in the works of other artists and hope in my own work to convey and celebrate the same sense of egalitarianism and freedom."

Another attention-grabbing piece is the "media art abandonware" by an anonymous Edmonton artist who goes by the handle Dr. Wik. If all goes according to plan (and here Murphy chuckles nervously), at some point during the festival the good doctor will leave some kind of media device – a cheap DVD player, a beat-up TV – in a public place, with no external sign that it's also a piece of art. Murphy will then receive a text message from Wik with the piece's location, which he will in turn post on the festival's website, along with some kind of documentation.

From there, what happens to the piece is entirely up to its unwitting audience: Murphy allows that it might get vandalized, destroyed, stolen, cleaned up by city officials, or whatever else happens to objects left in the public sphere. "As soon as you [the artist] walk away from it, you abandon it," Murphy says. "The piece is no longer yours."

Murphy can give you lots of reasons why films like those on display at STEM Cell are worthwhile in their own right. But does he make an intellectual case for the festival as well – that everyone must see art like this, in order to be a conscientious and better-informed citizen?

"That kind of prescriptive language I don't find to be a particularly effective marketing technique," he replies with a laugh. "But yeah. This is an under-documented, under-appreciated kind of filmmaking. If you like movies at all, there's going to be some great stuff here."

You heard the man. Flick the switch already, and go have some fun.

ROM COM · REVIEW

Do As The Romans Do ...

Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel fall in love in *When In Rome* | PHOTO SUPPLIED

... LIKE FALL IN LOVE AND GET REVENGE BY STEALING COINS FROM A MAGIC FOUNTAIN. MAKES PERFECT SENSE ...

WHEN IN ROME
Directed by Mark Steven Johnson, starring Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel
★★☆☆☆

BY KATHLEEN BELL

Low expectations are highly underrated. Seeing something rise above the status of "it can't get any worse" feels ... hmm, pleasant. When it comes to film, I'd much rather leave a movie theatre with that tingling sensation of delightful surprise, than be upset when something doesn't live up to the hype. This is why promoters shouldn't tag a movie with glorious praise, like the "Best Movie of the Year!" but rather go for notes like, "Decent. I'd see it again if I had nothing better to do."

A "DECENT — I'D SEE IT AGAIN IF I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO" KIND OF MOVIE

Therefore, in the spirit of maintaining low expectations, I have to say that the newest addition to the sad, long line of high-gloss-lipstick chick flicks in recent years, *When in Rome*, is okay. Not terrible. Genuinely funny, even. Sometimes.

Beth (Kristen Bell) is a young, overachieving curator at the Guggenheim Museum with yet another unyielding boss who heaves the whole weight of the Guggenheim's most important opening, like, ever, on the svelte shoulders of its youngest curator. At this crucial moment in Beth's career, her little sister decides suddenly to get married in Rome. Here, the film spends a good five minutes proving how desperately-single Beth compares to her lucky-in-love sis. We're supposed to commiserate with our protagonist's relationship troubles by the time she heads to Europe to fulfil her duties as the maid of honour.

Enter Nick (Josh Duhamel), who comes to Beth's rescue after she embarrasses herself in front of her sister's new Italian family. This meet-cute is, actually, adorable, mostly because Nick turns out to be a rather inept Prince Charming. But as soon as Beth opens herself up to the possibility of love, she spots Nick stumbling around with some hussy in a red dress.

Deciding to take revenge on the very idea of love, she steals coins from the fountain outside the church, which according to lore has the effect of stealing the love of the person who threw the coins into the fountain in the first place. "Hilarity" sporadically ensues.

The two charming leads, Kristen Bell, who's spunky and tart, and Josh Duhamel, who's yummy and can, in fact, land a laugh line, really pull this one out, as the script is only occasionally workable, often cliche and intermittently impossible. And no one seems to care that, hello, there's a magic love fountain!

Nevertheless, the idea that love is something that should be freely given, instead of taken by any means available (bought, sold, manipulated, stolen from a magic fountain!) is actually quite thoughtful. Which is an unexpectedly agreeable moral considering the source.

Oooh, tingly feeling.

DANCE ON FILM · PREVIEW

Mile Zero's Dance For Film Sends Screen Buffs Reeling

WE'RE USED TO DANCE ON TV, BUT BIG SCREEN DANCE ALLOWS FOR EVEN MORE EXPLORATION AND NARRATIVE

REELING
as part of the STEM Cell Festival
Metro Theatre (Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre), Feb. 11-14

BY JESSICA POTTER

With shows like *So You Think You Can Dance* bringing plies and pirouettes back into the pop culture lexicon, watching dance on the small screen might seem like the perfect medium to bring dance to the masses. But taking live performance and transferring it to film isn't as simple as video-taping a stage routine. "Dancing on film is a construction," says Gerry Morita, artistic director of Mile Zero Dance. "Compared to live dance, it's just that, not live."

Mile Zero Dance hopes to draw some of the new interest in dance towards an experimental new genre known as "dance for film." The company is joining forces with the FAVA and Metro Cinema during this year's STEM Cell Festival at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre. Mile Zero Dance's *Reeling* features a variety of dance films from Canadian and international artists, including the award-winning *Horizon of Exile* by Isabel Rocamora and short films by Mouvement Perpetuel out of Montreal. "Dance for film uses the body as a subject," says Morita. "Dance is not usually so narrative — so much of what we do as dancers is shaped in the moment. You see and feel the performance on stage, it's immediate. With film, we capture that spontaneity in a different way."

Jeannie Vandekerkhove "reels" with spirit | PHOTO BY TRACY O'LAMERA

Dance for film is an experimental art form, but one that's picking up in popularity. New festivals are popping up around the world with artists sharing works with a wider audience than is usually possible through traditional means. "By showing dance on film, we can screen productions from around the world and show our work in more places than we ever could ever possibly travel to due to the high costs of touring," says Morita. "Dance is costly to produce — you have to rent theatres, carry a large team when touring — by using video, we can show our work to a much wider audience."

"Putting together a dance film means taking something so 3-D and immediate and changing it into a two-dimensional narrative. It's a challenging task," she says. Although the North American phenomenon of prime-time dance shows has exposed audiences to a wide range of dance styles, Morita says the programs have encouraged people to only see dance as hard-hitting and limited in time. "It's become a formula," she says. "When you create dance specifically for film, you can expose audiences to things they wouldn't normally see. You can do so much more with this medium."

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LOTS OF KILLING · REVIEW

If Travolta Sports A Goatee ...

EVEN THOUGH IT SOUNDS LIKE A ROMANTIC COMEDY, FROM PARIS WITH LOVE HAS MORE KILLS THAN KISSES

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
Directed by Pierre Morel, starring John Travolta
★★☆☆☆

BY MAURICE TOUGAS

Here's an easy way to tell what kind of John Travolta movie to expect: Travolta with facial hair (*The Taking of Pelham 123*) means there will be killing. Travolta without facial hair (*Old Dogs*) means the only thing getting killed is Travolta's career.

Travolta sports a mean goatee, shaved head, one earring and plenty of extra bulk in *From Paris With Love*, a stylish but still generic action film from Pierre Morel.

In *From Paris With Love*, Travolta plays Charlie Wax, a top U.S. government operative who is sent to Paris to break up a terrorist ring that is threatening to disrupt an African aid summit, why terrorists would want to disrupt such a boring summit is not explained.

Wax is paired with James Reece (Jonathan Rhys Meyers,) a personal aide to the U.S. ambassador to France. Meyers is a would-be spook who has been handling minor espionage chores for the government until he is given the job of driving Wax around Paris. Wax is a busy man, with a full slate of stylish killings on his schedule. After the requisite 20 minutes of killing-free plot development, Travolta shows up in Paris and the film finds its groove: high body-count action sequence, followed by brief plot exposition, followed by high body-count action sequence. *From Paris With Love* is the kind of film that lives or dies on the quality of its killings. Some are routine, some are pretty clever (a sequence set inside a spiral staircase is particularly good). There's a car chase on a highway that's also pretty good, but setting it on a highway diminishes its impact, car chases are always better on crowded city streets.

From Paris With Love is pretty much what you would expect from the trailers. Travolta chews the scenery, lots of people get killed, cars blow up, and the audience goes home semi-satisfied. You're likely to forget it an hour after seeing it.

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3 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Young Victoria
Nightly 7:00pm
SAT, SUN & MON MATINEES @ 1:15pm
RATED: PG

1 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION

A Single Man
Nightly 9:00pm
SAT, SUN & MON MATINEES @ 3:15pm
RATED: PG - MATURE SUBJECT MATTER NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN

6 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Precious
Nightly @ 6:50pm
SAT, SUN & MON MATINEES @ 1:00pm
RATED: 14A SEXUAL VIOLENCE COARSE LANGUAGE DISTURBING CONTENT

2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Imaginarium Doctor Parnassus
Nightly @ 9:10pm
SAT, SUN & MON MATINEES @ 3:30pm
RATED: PG - COARSE LANGUAGE FRIGHTENING SCENES

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Crazy Heart
3 Academy Award Nominations
Nightly 6:45 & 9:15pm
SAT, SUN & MON
MATINEES @ 2:00pm
RATED: 14A - COARSE LANGUAGE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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MOVIE GUIDE · WHAT'S PLAYING IN THEATRES

NEW THIS WEEK

THE WOLFMAN
A young nobleman returns to the English hamlet where he grew up to find his missing brother. But an official from Scotland Yard also arrives to investigate an evil beast that's been killing townsfolk under the full moons.

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTENING THIEF
Learning he is the descendant of a Greek God, a high school student becomes embroiled in a battle between the Gods while embarking on a mission to find his missing mother and Zeus's lightening bolt.

STEM CELL: EXPERIMENTAL DOCUMENTARIES
This film festival features a number of documentaries exploring various subjects including home movies, landscapes, the medium of media, memory and more. Visit www metrocinema org for a complete list

VALENTINE'S DAY
Featuring an all-star Hollywood cast, Valentine's Day explores this holiday, the commercial influences, romance, heartbreak and various pressures inevitably involved.

ALSO PLAYING

CRAZY HEART
Bad Blake's ■ country singer on a steady slide into obscurity behind the new country sensation he once mentored. Bad pours what little heart he has left into Jean, a small-town reporter and single mom who just can't help but become wrapped up in Bad's gruff but sweet sensibility.

★★★★☆

DEAR JOHN
Savannah falls for John, a Special Forces soldier. When 9/11 strikes, John's sense of duty promises to keep them apart for an insufferable period and the two exchange countless handwritten letters as the time passes.

★★★★☆

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
John Travolta plays Charlie Wax, a top U.S. government operative whose methods are unorthodox. Wax ■ sent to Paris ■ break up a terrorist ring that is threatening to disrupt an African aid summit.

★★☆☆☆

A SINGLE MAN
Love interrupted, isolation and life's little things are played our during a day in the life of George Falconer (Colin Firth), ■ college professor struggling to find meaning ■ his life after the death of his long-time partner.

★★★★½

AVATAR
James Cameron might actually be more excited ■ the release of his movie than the rest ■ us put together. Starring Sam Worthington and Sigourney Weaver, this film percolated ■ his mind for 15 years until the technology to make it happen finally caught up.

★★★★☆

THE BOOK OF ELI
■ a post-nuclear winter, ■ (Denzel Washington) is armed with a powerful and sacred book and a young disciple (Mila Kunis.) They soon encounter ■ semi-socialized desert town lead by Carnegie (Gary Oldman) who wants the book for himself

★★☆☆☆

EDGE OF DARKNESS
Mel Gibson returns in this crime thriller as Thomas Craven, a Boston detective who is investigating the killing of his activist daughter. Unravelling her secret life, Craven also uncovers corporate and political corruption and conspiracy, which someone is desperate to erase

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS
With the extraordinary gift ■ guiding imaginations, Doctor Parnassus ■ also cursed having traded his daughter to the devil in exchange for immortality ■ this captivating explosive and wonderfully imaginative race against time, ■ Parnassus must undo the mistakes of his past ■ a never-ending landscape ■ surreal obstacles!

★★★★☆

WHEN IN ROME
This rom-com features ■ legendary fountain of love in Rome. When a young, single New Yorker visits the city, she makes off with a handful of coins from the fountain with a trail of hopeful suitors following ■ her wake.

★★★☆☆

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE
Often gruelling but ultimately illuminating drama about a teenage girl's struggle to find self-worth despite her status ■ bottom of the social totem pole — she is African-American, obese, illiterate, abused, pregnant. Don't get that bizarre title, though

★★★★☆

SHOWTIMES FEBRUARY 12-18, 2010

GARNEAU
8712 - 109 STREET • 780-433-0728

CRAZY HEART 14A
Nightly 6:45, 9:15, Sat Sun & Mon matinees 2:00
Coarse language, substance abuse

PRINCESS
10337 - 82 AVENUE • 780-433-0728

THE YOUNG VICTORIA PG
Nightly 7:00; Sat Sun & Mon matinees 1:15

A SINGLE MAN PG
Nightly 9:00; Sat Sun & Mon matinees 3:15

PRECIOUS 14A
Nightly 6:50; Sat Sun & Mon matinees 1:00
Sexual violence, coarse language, disturbing content

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS PG
Nightly 9:10; Sat Sun & Mon matinees 3:30. Coarse language, frightening scenes

PARKLAND
130 Century Crossing, Spruce Grove • 780-962-2332

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Nightly 7:00, 9:30; matinees Sat Sun Tues & Mon 1:00, 3:30; Movies for Mommies Tues 1:00. Language may offend

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Nightly 7:15, 9:20; matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:15, 3:20
Gory violence

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG
Nightly 6:50, 9:15; matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 12:50, 3:15
Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

THE PRINCESS THE FROG G
Matinees Sat Sun Mon Tues 12:45, 3:00

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Nightly 6:45, 9:00
Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for young children.

DEAR JOHN PG
Nightly 6:55, 9:25; matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 12:55, 3:25

TOOTH FAIRY G
Nightly 7:10, 9:10; matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:10, 3:10

WHEN IN ROME PG
Nightly 7:05, 9:05; matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:05, 3:05

METRO CINEMA
9828-101A AVENUE (ZEIDLER HALL, CITADEL THEATRE) • 780-425-9212

REELING SEX, DEATH & ARABESQUE STC
Fri 7:00

EVERY TIME IS SEE YOUR PICTURE I CRY STC
Fri 9:00

ARTIST'S TALK WITH DANIEL BARROW @ THE ARTERY STC
Sat 2:00

STEM CELL: EXPERIMENTAL DOCS 2: LANDSCAPES STC
Sat 6:00

STEM CELL: EXPERIMENTAL DOCS 3: THE MEDIU OF MEDIA STC
Sat 7:30

REELING BLUSH STC
Sat 9:00

STEM CELL: EXPERIMENTAL DOCS 4: MEMORY STC
Sun 1:00

REELING: GRAVITY OF DESIRE STC
Sun 2:30

STEM CELL: EXPERIMENTAL DOCS 4: PHENOMENOLOGY & PERCEPTION STC
Sun 4:00

GRANDIN THEATRE
GRANDIN MALL, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE., ST. ALBERT • 780-458-9822

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS SQUEAKQUEL G
Daily 4:55

AVATAR PG
Daily 6:35. Violence, not recommended for children.

TOOTH FAIRY G
Daily 1:00, 3:00, 6:40

DEAR JOHN PG
Daily 1:30, 3:35, 5:35, 40, 9:40

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Daily 1:35, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45. Gory violence

THE LIGHTENING THIEF: PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS PG
Daily 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Daily 2:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:25. Language may offend

LEDUC CINEMAS
4702 50 St. Leduc • 780-986-2728

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:30; matinees Thurs-Sun 1:10, 3:30. Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children

AVATAR PG
Nightly 6:45, 9:45; matinees Thurs-Sun 12:30, 3:35
Violence, not recommended for young children

DEAR JOHN PG
Nightly 7:10, 9:35; matinees Fri-Sun 1:10, 3:35.

TOOTH FAIRY G
Nightly 7:05, 9:20; matinees Thurs-Sun 1:05, 3:20

WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX
3840-56 Wetaskiwin • 780-352-3922

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:25; matinees Fri-Sun 1:05, 3:25
Violence, coarse language

TOOTH FAIRY G
Nightly 6:55, 9:20; matinees Thurs-Sat 12:55, 3:20

LEGION 14A
Nightly 9:30. Violence, coarse language, gory scenes.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Nightly 7:00; matinees Fri-Sun 1:00, 3:30. Mature subject matter

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:35; matinees Thurs-Sun 1:10, 3:35

SOUTH EDMONTON
1525 99 Street • 780-436-8585

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri-Thurs 1:10, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 7:15, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30
Gory violence. No passes

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTENING THIEF PG
Fri-Wed 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50, Thurs 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Star & Strollers Screening Thurs 1:00. No passes. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri-Wed 1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15; Thurs 4:20, 7:15, 10:15; Fri-Thurs 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:45; Star & Strollers Screening Thurs 1:00.
No passes. Language may offend.

CTV OLYMPIC GAMES BROADCAST STC
Fri 5:00; Sat-Sun 11:00; Mon-Thurs 1:00

DEAR JOHN PG
Fri-Thurs 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40. Coarse language, violence

WHEN IN ROME PG
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 3:10, 6:40, 9:20. Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children

TOOTH FAIRY G
Fri-Thurs 1:40, 4:15, 6:35, 9:10

THE BOOK OF ELI 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:50, 3:50, 7:10, 10:05. Brutal violence, not recommended for young children.

CRAZY HEART 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:25, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15. Coarse language, substance abuse.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Thurs 3:15, 7:20, 10:15. Not recommended for young children, violence.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Thurs 12:45

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri-Tues 12:00, 1:00, 4:00, 5:00, 8:00, 9:30, Wed-Thurs 12:00, 1:00, 4:00, 8:00, 9:15. Violence, not recommended for young children.

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri 12:00, 2:30, 10:20; Sat-Thurs 10:20. Coarse language.

CELINE: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WORLD G
Wed-Thurs 7:00

NORTH EDMONTON
[illegible]

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40. Gory violence. No passes.

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG
Fri, Tues, Thurs 12:40, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40, Sat-Mon 11:30, 12:40, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40, Wed 3:40, 6:45, 9:40; Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:00. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children. No passes

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri-Tues, Thurs 12:50, 3:50, 7:10, 10:05, Wed 3:50, 7:10, 10:05. Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:00. Language may offend. No passes.

CTV OLYMPIC GAMES BROADCAST STC
Fri 5:00; Sat-Sun 1:00; Mon-Thurs 1:00

DEAR JOHN PG
Fri-Thurs 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:50, 4:30, 7:50, 10:25. Coarse language, violence.

WHEN IN ROME PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 3:20, 6:50, 9:55. Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children.

TOOTH FAIRY G
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15.

THE BOOK OF ELI 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30. Brutal violence, not recommended for children.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Thurs 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15. Not recommended for young children, violence.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Thurs 1:00

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri-Tues 12:30, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00; Wed-Thurs 12:30, 2:15, 4:20, 8:15, 10:00. Violence, not recommended for young children.

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri 2:00, 10:20; Sat-Thurs 10:20.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri-Thurs 3:30, 6:40, 9:20. Mature subject matter.

CELINE: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WORLD G
Wed-Thurs 7:00

CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS
3RD FLOOR PHASE II, 101 St. & 102 AVE. • 780-421-7020

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30. Gory violence. No passes

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 4:00, 8:30.
Violence, not recommended for young children.

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri-Tues 12:25, 1:00, 3:20, 3:55, 6:20, 7:00, 9:25, 9:55; Wed-Thurs 12:25, 1:00, 3:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:25. Language may offend. No passes.

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:05, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05. Coarse language, violence.

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:45, 3:35, 6:50, 9:40
Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 3:10, 6:50. Not recommended for young children.

LEGION 18A
Fri-Thurs 9:45

DEAR JOHN PG
Fri-Thurs 12:55, 3:50, 7:15, 10:15

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG
Fri-Thurs 12:45, 3:35, 6:40, 9:35. Frightening scenes, not recommended for children.

CELINE: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WORLD G
Wed-Thurs 7:00. No passes.

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS
4211-139TH AVENUE • 780-472-7600

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri 4:20, 4:50, 8:00, 9:00; Sat-Mon 12:45, 1:15, 4:20, 4:50, 8:00, 9:00; Tues-Thurs 4:30, 7:30, 8:00. Violence, not recommended for young children.

TOOTH FAIRY G
Fri 4:00, 6:35, 9:10; Sat-Mon 1:20, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10; Tues-Thurs 5:40, 8:25

LEGION 18A
Fri 4:40, 7:15, 9:45; Sat-Mon 1:40, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45; Tues-Thurs 5:15, 8:50

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Fri 4:10, 6:55, 9:35; Sat-Mon 1:10, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35; Tues-Thurs 5:20, 8:50. Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children.

DEAR JOHN STC
Fri 4:15, 6:50, 9:25; Sat-Mon 1:30, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25; Tues-Thurs 5:30, 8:30

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Fri 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Mon 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Tues-Thurs 5:10, 7:50

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG
Fri 3:45, 6:40, 9:30; Sat-Mon 1:00, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30; Tues-Thurs 5:00, 8:20. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children. No passes.

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Mon 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Tues-Thurs 5:50, 8:45. Gory violence. No passes.

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri 3:50, 6:45, 9:40; Sat-Mon 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40; Tues-Thurs 4:50, 8:10. Language may offend. No passes.

WESTMOUNT CENTRE CINEMAS
111 AVENUE & GROAT ROAD • 780-455-8726

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri 7:10, 9:55; Sat-Mon 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55; Tues-Thurs 5:30, 8:30
Gory violence. No passes.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri 6:25, 9:20; Sat-Mon 12:30, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20; Tues-Thurs 5:10, 8:00
Mature subject matter.

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri 6:40, 9:35; Sat-Mon 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:35; Tues-Thurs 5:20, 8:10
Language may offend. No passes.

DEAR JOHN PG
Fri 6:55, 9:45; Sat-Mon 1:00, 3:50, 6:55, 9:45; Tues-Thurs 5:00, 8:20.

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
WEST EDMONTON MALL • 8882-170 STREET • 780-444-2400

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45. Gory violence. No passes.

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG
Fri-Thurs 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. Frightening scenes, not recommended for children. No passes.

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri-Tues, Thurs 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50; Wed 3:50, 6:50, 9:50, Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:00. Language may offend. No passes.

CTV OLYMPIC GAMES BROADCAST STC
Fri 5:00; Sat-Sun 11:00; Mon-Thurs 1:00

DEAR JOHN STC
Fri-Tues, Thurs 12:20, 3:20, 6:40, 9:30; Wed 3:20, 6:40, 9:30, Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:00.

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Fri-Thurs 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:45. Coarse language, violence.

WHEN IN ROME PG
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20. Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children.

TOOTH FAIRY G
Fri-Thurs 1:10, 4:10

LEGION 18A
Fri-Thurs 1:20, 10:00; Sat-Thurs 10:00

THE BOOK OF ELI 14A
Fri-Thurs 7:40, 10:40. Brutal violence, not recommended for children.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Tues, Thurs 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10; Wed 1:00, 4:00, 10:10. Not recommended for young children, violence.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Thurs 11:50

AVATAR: IMAX PG
Fri, Mon-Thurs 12:45, 1:45, 4:45, 6:30, 8:45, 10:5; Sat-Sun 12:00, 1:45, 3:45, 6:30, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45, Fri, Mon-Thurs 11:45, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun 10:00, 1:20, 4:45, 8:10, 11:30.
Violence, not recommended for young children.

CINEMA CITY MOVIES 12
[illegible] AVENUE & 50 STREET • [illegible]

MY NAME IS KHAN HINDI W/E.S.T. PG
Fri-Sat 1:05, 4:25, 7:45, 11:10; Sun-Thurs 1:05, 4:25, 7:45
Mature subject matter, violence

SUKHMANI — HOPE FOR LIFE STC
Fri-Thurs 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50.

DAYBREAKERS 18A
Fri-Sat 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00, 12:20; Sun-Thurs 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00. Gory scenes

LEAP YEAR PG
Fri-Sat 1:45, 4:45, 7:25, 9:50, 12:05; Sun-Thurs 1:45, 4:45, 7:25, 9:50

NINE PG
Fri-Sat 1:15, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25, 11:45; Sun-Thurs 1:45, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Fri-Sat 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:35, 11:55; Sun-Thurs 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:35.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:15, 11:15; Sun-Thurs 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:15.

THE ROAD 14A
Fri-Sat 9:10, 12:00; Sun-Thurs 9:55. Disturbing content

FANTASTIC MR. FOX PG
Fri-Thurs 1:25, 4:40, 6:45, 9:20

PLANET 51 G
Fri-Thurs 1:40, 4:30, [illegible]

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG
Fri-Sat 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:45, 12:15; Sun-Thurs 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:45
Violence

2012 PG
Fri-Sat 1:10, 4:20, 7:35, 11:05; Sun-Thurs 1:10, 4:20, 7:35
Not recommended for children, frightening scenes.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE PG
Fri-Sat 1:55, 6:35. Not recommended for young children.

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN 18A
Fri-Sat 7:20, 9:55, 12:10; Sun-Mon 7:20, 9:55. Brutal violence

GALAXY CINEMAS
2020 SHERWOOD DR., SHERWOOD PARK • 780-416-0150

THE WOLFMAN 18A
Fri-Mon 1:15, 4:20, 7:45, 10:30; Tues-Thurs 7:45, 10:30. Gory violence. No passes.

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF PG
Fri-Mon 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00; Tues-Thurs 7:15, 10:00. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children. No passes.

VALENTINE'S DAY PG
Fri-Mon 12:00, 3:40, 7:30, 10:20; Tues-Thurs 7:30, 10:20. Language may offend. No passes.

DEAR JOHN PG
Fri-Mon 12:30, 3:30, 7:20, 9:50; Tues-Thurs 7:20, 9:50

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 14A
Fri-Mon 12:50, 4:15, 7:40, 10:10; Tues-Thurs 7:40, 10:10
Coarse language, violence

WHEN IN ROME PG
Fri-Mon 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:45; Tues-Thurs 6:45, 9:45.

EDGE OF DARKNESS 14A
Fri-Mon 1:10, 4:30, 7:50, 10:40; Tues-Thurs 7:50, 10:40. Brutal violence, gory scenes, not recommended for children.

TOOTH FAIRY G
Fri-Mon 12:20, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30; Tues-Thurs 6:50, 9:30.

THE BOOK OF ELI 14A
Fri-Mon 4:10, 10:15; Tues-Thurs 10:15. Brutal violence, not recommended for children.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Mon 12:15, 7:15; Tues-Thurs 7:15. Not recommended for young children, violence.

AVATAR PG
Fri-Mon 11:45, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30; Tues-Thurs 6:30, 10:00
Not recommended for young children, violence

JAZZ · PREVIEW

On Dance, Creativity And Corporate Teamwork

RUBIM DE TOLEDO ON JAZZ'S UNEXPECTED LESSONS, LIKE HOW LOSING CONTROL CAN BE A WORTHWHILE TEAM EFFORT

RUBIM DE TOLEDO
With the Edmonton Jazz Orchestra, Friday, Feb. 19 at the Royal Alberta Museum, tickets at www.tixonthesquare.ca

BY KATHLEEN BELL

Everyone should have to learn jazz improvisation as part of the standard school curriculum. I know that's a sweeping statement, but I'm prepared to back it up. While I couldn't improvise my way out of a paper bag, what I discovered from chatting with bassist and jazz composer Rubim de Toledo is that collectively we could acquire some serious life skills if only we could all bust out a jazz solo once in a while.

"Part of improvisation is not just expressing yourself," Toledo explains over the phone from his base in Calgary. "Jazz musicians aren't playing by themselves, so part of it has to do with trusting the people around you. You can't try to control the situation all the time because it's never going to go your way. On a bandstand, you're not sure what the other musicians are going to play, so you're not in control, you're only partially in control. I think in life that's important too."

A music instructor at Mount Royal University, Toledo says he's actually been asked by the Banff Centre to give lectures to business professionals on the arts, teamwork and creativity.

"These businesses, they have their meetings, they have their board and these people aren't necessarily used to working together as a team. They're very cutthroat. So businesses are interested in how artists are creative and how they can work together. You need to trust the people around you. You can't just assume your idea is the strongest and try to enforce it. You have to come up with ideas that are flexible. And you have to accept other people's ideas as well, add to them and not necessarily take the credit for it."

Wouldn't that be more useful than organic chemistry?

Okay, so I realize not everyone can pick up an instrument – that's why we admire musicians so. But by simply listening to Toledo's most recent album, 2009's *The River*, you start to understand the importance of that dynamic. It's not about showing off, but creating a seamless dance from idea to idea, measure to measure, note to note. In fact, dance was what Toledo had in mind when he composed the album, commissioned by Decidedly Jazz Danceworks in Calgary.

"People who listen to the record who don't realize the connection, are like, 'Oh, a lot of the ideas you have are unique and not your typical jazz album,'" he says. "But that's because I'm writing for dancers, so I need to know that there's going to be some kind of rhythmic momentum to the songs. I come in knowing that there has to be a lot of diversity because it's going to be a show, not necessarily for jazz music listeners, it's going to be a show for a dance audience, so you need to engage them."

Toledo freely admits that often audiences have preconceptions about jazz and sometimes they're fairly negative. But he's up to changing people's minds.

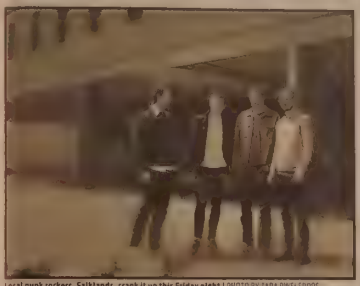
"I like to bring a lot of different elements into jazz – Brazilian and Cuban rhythms and styles – so it's going to be very user friendly jazz," finishes Toledo. "It's going to be accessible to everyone, so if you're scared of jazz this might be a good introduction too it."

Of course, when I get my way everyone will know how to fill eight measures in 4/4 time on the fly before they graduate high school.

Jazz man Rubim de Toledo | PHOTO SUPPLIED

NEW PUNK · PREVIEW

Next Nickelback, Heaven Forbid?



Local punk rockers, Falklands, crank it up this Friday night | PHOTO BY TARA DWELSDORF

WHICH IS WHAT FALKLANDS DON'T WANT TO BE. THESE GUYS ARE TRUE TO THEIR ROOTS AND ROCK OUT HARD

FALKLANDS EP RELEASE PARTY
With Sub City and Old Sins
New City Liquid Lounge, Feb. 18

BY THOMAS PATRICK PRINGLE

The band, Falklands, are intent on riding that line between punk and rock, and it's always surprising to see what kind of preconceptions people read into such a declaration. Like is the band deterred by the random guy sitting near them during an interview who interrupts with "Maybe I could get an autograph? You never know, you guys could be the next Nickelback?"

"I don't want to make shitty music," laughs guitarist Mark Budd while coolly responding to our conversation's impromptu gatecrasher. Falklands play rock music and, rest assured, stay true to their own roots. "All of us kinda come from a punk-rock background," says bassist Lee Klippenstein. "We're taking that punk-rock thing and filtering it through pop music."

Falklands are set to release their new EP *Bastille Day*, a four-song straight-up rock 'n roll jam that takes the likes of Nick Lowe or Elvis Costello with a pint of dark beer. With several tours and three EPs under their belt, these Edmonton boys have it figured out when it comes to bringing out the crazy in the small towns of the Prairies. "I love playing small towns where the only thing they have to do is go out and see live music," Budd says, "they get so amped when a band is loud, and the PA is breaking up!"

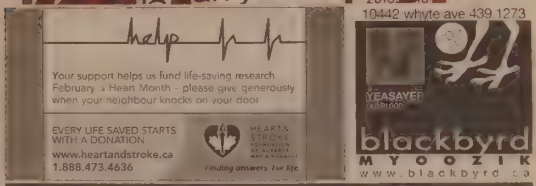
When they're not busy setting off fireworks in a Saskatoon bar, or sharing their covered stage with a dancing rained-out crowd at a festival in Hinton, their tours balance off with some honest-to-roots gigs. "Sometimes we have to play three-set shows," Budd says, "we're basically the entertainment in the bar for a night."

"There's the odd shows too that a lot of people might consider to be 'shitty shows,'" Klippenstein says. "Some of the mountain towns you play, there have been five or six people who have stayed around for all three sets and danced all night you don't need to play to 300 people to have a good time."

And that's the thing about Falklands their music comes from an honest place. "It really feels good when people get it. They get what going to see a live band is all about: losing all inhibition, having a good time, screaming at the top of their lungs, and dancing," says Budd.

So, what do the Falkland Islands have to do with this portrait of a hard-working Albertan rock band? "You ever have a shitty day, and you're just like 'I want to escape from here, be off the radar everywhere' [It's about] immersing yourself in this place where you can just find refuge," Budd says. "Why beat yourself up when you could be doing something that brings you joy in the world?"

It's comforting to have musicians who still care about entertainment and having a good time without the reserves of pretension. That said, the next time you find yourself in a bar with Falklands and you have someone enter your conversation with the sobering thought of "I'm an old rock 'n roll guy, the dream died ages ago," you will have Klippenstein close at hand to laugh and sarcastically call out "That was the death of rock 'n roll!" As long as you have acts like Falklands, there will always be the guitar solo, the drop kick, the smashed instrument days of yore – and these guys will have a raucous good time reminding you.



CONDUCTOR SEARCH · PROFILE

... So You Think You Can Conduct?

The 60-piece St. Albert Community Band is looking for their new leader. Could it be you? | PHOTO SUPPLIED

IF YOU CAN INSPIRE WITH A BATON, THE ST. ALBERT COMMUNITY BAND MAY JUST BE LOOKING FOR YOU

ST. ALBERT COMMUNITY BAND
Conductor Search, Application Deadline – Feb. [illegible]
Resume submissions to colleenmdec@shaw.ca

BY STACEY LAWRENCE

The St. Albert Community Band is looking for a conductor. Laurelie Nattress is passing off her baton to the next maestro who can take the band to the next level. Do you have what it takes? Have you got the moves? Got the beat? The baton technique?

"It was a fabulous experience," says Nattress, of her tenure with the band. "As we grew together I had a good opportunity to make some great music. I think that it's time they have somebody new to relate to and I think that they're ready for some new ideas."

So what does it take to lead a group of 60 experienced and not-so-experienced musicians? A group that has 40 years of performance experience, has won Top Band awards year after year, has played for the Queen and yet is still accepting any and all musicians regardless of the amount of dust on their instrument?

Well, they're just hungry to play, to perform, to have fun and to learn new music.

So the first requirement of their new conductor is, drum roll please... a sense of humor.

"We don't need a stick in the mud, monotoned, stop on every single note," kind of conductor, band president Gerry Buccini says. "We're a community band. We want somebody who's not just there for the money, not just there to conduct classical music written by people with 29 letters in their last name. We have an audience that ranges from 10-year-olds to 100-year-olds, so you've got to meet the needs of the community. You want the audience to leave humming the tune of a familiar song."

"You want to enjoy yourself but you also want to learn," says Buccini, "so we're looking for a teacher in this particular hiring. Somebody who believes you don't just have follow the music."

Buccini recalls a time when their current conductor gave them a new piece of music. "We never, ever, ever got it right. We never got it the way she wanted us to play it. So finally she asked, 'Does anybody know what this [title], "As Summer Was Just Beginning," really means?' And somebody said, 'Isn't that what's written on James Dean's tomb stone?' And yes, it is. As summer was just beginning his life was taken from him.

"So she said to us, 'Now I want you to play it again, and I want you to play it thinking of that.' And we played it," says Buccini, "and it sounded different. When we finished she had tears in her eyes. She said, 'Now you've got it.' One week later our adjudicator said, 'You played that piece of music just like James Dean would have wanted it to be played.'"

Says Buccini of their next conductor, "That's what we're looking for."

Throw in some concert band experience and the ability to interpret music and take risks and you've got yourself a job.

So, come out all of you concert-band-playing, risktaking, joke-making, idea-baking, baton-waving, music-creating teachers. The St. Albert Community Band is looking for you.

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AROUND TOWN · COMMENTARY

Of Device And Men

WILDLIFE FISH GRIWKOWSKY

FISH IS LOVIN' TECHNOLOGY, VALENTINE'S DAY LESS SO AND HAS HIS OWN GAME FOR THE 2010 OLYMPIC GAMES

The discovery of an unusual, multipurpose venue is a pleasant fact of a city ever shifting, even as slowly as ours does. Every time we notice a restaurant we loved just ain't what it used to be, or "Hey, wasn't there a raunchy dance club where that parking lot is?" someone will be smart enough to stuff live music into pretty much any box and give us updated character. Recently, Jason Dublanko brought some semi-old-school, occasional venues back into our heads, playing upstairs at Remedy with Tim Rechner and his former Headband-mate Bobby Kydd. A week later, he was jamming unshaven at Blackbyrd amid the vinyl Vampire Weekend and awesome 33 1/3 books (please read 'em all) just as Kydd hit it at Leva, the modular kit-designed café just southeast of the university.

Though I find it silly the menus at Leva are two TV screens wasting power and showing exactly the same items, the food is innovative and it's one of the few places where babies seem to know how to behave. Maybe it's all the windows? What's relevant is the brilliant acoustics and Kydd's thankfully-still-going

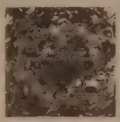
FISH cont'd on p. 22

CD · REVIEWS

WOODHANDS
Remorsecapade
(Paper Bag Records)
★★★½

There's a lot swirling around the mix on this latest release from Vancouver electro-pop duo Woodhands, but it all comes from the same initial itch. Dan Werb and Paul Banwatt are directly channeling their inner teenager. Take a song like "Co24," wherein Werb sing-yells that he's outside, "pointing 1,600 Roman candles at your door." There's something wonderfully obsessive, and at the same time naive about that image: you can imagine a kid in high school, spurned by his crush, getting so riled up and lovesick that he comes up with this, the craziest plan possible, to win her back.

The rest of *Remorsecapade* follows this basic template, with electronic squiggles and stuttery, dance-oriented drums providing the soundtrack to Werb's passionate, but extremely rough vocals. It's all fun, even if there isn't much replay value. And a couple more reflective songs about coming down ("I Should Have Gone With My Friends," "When The Party Is Over") show the duo may have more cards up it's sleeve yet.
MICHAEL HINGSTON



SEAN NICHOLAS SAVAGE
Spread Free Like A Butterfly LP
(Alfalfa)
★★★★½

The musical trajectory taken by expatriate Sean Nicholas Savage is diverse. Savage has run the gamut: a short list description of his music ranges from lo-fi anthems to French-inspired chamber pop and afternoon memories of Lightfoot. That said, his career took a decidedly mature turn along the way and finds its fullest realization in the *Spread Free Like a Butterfly* LP. Savage once wandered into the Tranzac' Toronto venue and accidentally sat in on a biannual elite Canadian folk council. The wise songwriters took turns singing years of experience. There was no applause, just silent nods of approval. Somehow, Savage mustered the strength to enter this circle, if only for a couple tunes. Perhaps that moment of determination changed the singer to sage, because the vinyl-only pressing of *Spread Free* features his trademark psychedelic folk-pop with a shot of wisdom born of the most honest introspection. Don't clap or sing along, simply consider and nod.
THOMAS PATRICK PRINGLE

THE SHAKY HANDS
Let It Die
(Rock Star)
★★★★☆

Occasionally an album comes along that is fantastically refreshing and new, yet comfortable and familiar. *Let It Die* is this album. It harkens back to the days of gritty gentle rock, yet manages to remain quite modern. It would make itself at home 50 years ago, and the sound will likely persevere well into the future. Each riff and melody seems to be crafted solely to serve the song, making it seem organic and not forced. The lead guitar forgoes most chances for solos and simply opts to add texture to the song, while the drums' steady beat does well to keep the listener involved. The vocals can, at times, resemble Caleb Followill (of Kings of Leon fame), but forgiveness is easy when everything else sounds so pure. *Let It Die* helps solidify my theory that if it's from Portland, it's bound to kick some serious ass.
CRAIG PALMER

MALACHAI
Ugly Side of Love
(Domino)
★★★☆☆

"I know what I want and I'm not too proud to shout it," sings Gee Eatey, half of the Bristol-based English duo Malachai. Although, after listening to this debut, I'm not really sure WHAT this band wants. *Ugly Side of Love* mutates from reggae-dub freakouts ("Warriors") into classic rock mash-ups ("How Long," which steals the descending riff from Guess Who's 1970 single "Hand Me Down World,") and then again into stoned-out acid rock ("Blackbird".) It's as if they took every genre they loved from the '60s and '70s and ran them through a hip-hop blender, sampling and looping their favourite bits. The effect of this musical ADD exercise is like listening to random selections from a prolific vinyl junkie's record collection: certainly eclectic, but not always cohesive. However, the strong points of this album — such as the straight ahead garage-stomp of "Snowflake" or the Motown-soul of "Another Sun" — showcase a creative new band with strong potential.
JOSH MARCELLIN

INFECTED MUSHROOM
Legend of the Black Shawarma
(Dutch Tunes Records)
★★★½

Infected Mushroom has a long track record of releasing well put together albums and has earned their place on the pedestal fans have put them on. *Legend of the Black Shawarma* does well to continue to prove they belong in the spotlight. Opting to move back towards a more metal sound with this album, while maintaining a heavy electronic influence, there is something for fans new and old. Cameos from Korn's Jonathan Davis and Perry Farrell of Jane's Addiction also add a great deal of value to the whole experience when combined with Duvdev's haunting vocals. The album does have a low point, however. In this case the low point embodies itself as a remix of The Doors' "Riders on the Storm." The song was not broken, yet Infected Mushroom attempted to fix it anyway and the end result was a slight disappointment.
CRAIG PALMER

LISTEN · BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

LOS CAMPESINOS!
ROMANCE IS BORING

However easy it is to be unnerved by twee spaz-rock, it's funny how utterly moving this record is. In terms of scathing lyrical honesty, I'd put it up there with the Streets, the "corpse you really love" of Steve Merritt's *Love Songs* or — if you really want some archaeology — Pulp's *A Different Class*. "Cos you think poor is cool." Much more energetic, Welsh singer Gareth — first names only — is simply one of the best writers going right now. In various songs, he captures a truly punk disaffection for bullshit and despite the album title, is a romantic (albeit a horny one.) On "Straight in to 101," he sings tensely, "You pull your dress over your face — and I stare down towards my chest. Chastise both our greasy hair, wonder who's gut is the softest." You feel like a dizzy voyeur, listening in on something you shouldn't. But Gareth and his merry band aren't just taking the clothes off whoever's wearing that dress; they're stripping down our crumbling world with observations of tadpoles running white, newscasters commenting on failed romances. My favourite image on the album comes in the first song, a jagged mountain range of the band moving in and out of its passion: "I'm leaving my body in science — not medical, but physics. Drive my corpse out to the airport and lay me out on the left wing. Drop me at the highest point and trace a line around the dent I leave in the ground." I could easily write 1,000 words on what a fucking awesome and sociologically telling perspective this comes from. The gentler, but churning "The Sea Is a Good Place" Think About the Future" has a simply beautiful Super-8 video of the band's gang hanging on a beach as the day fades. "All you can hear is the sound of your own heart," Gareth sings, citing "toasts on the radio trying to give up smoking," talking not as much of the future, as he does the death and "1,000 years of getting rid of me." Can an album of the year come out so early?
★★★★★

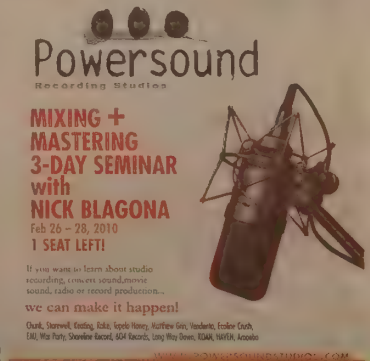
JJ
N° 3

Distant as Gothenburg, Sweden itself, this subdued and soothing pop sometimes dips into cheesebaiting but is generally as loveable as a sickly gay friend. Everything exists in a kind of treble echo chamber, reminiscent of the moody sonic swoops which used to pervade electronic rave culture. Though when the beats do show up here, they're buried. At least three stories under the snow like trapped zombie Nazis pounding on the walls. Pretty overall, with just enough New Order and Italian soccer samples to be special. I fell asleep listening, but it was welcome.
★★★½

OLD SCHOOL

OZZY OSBORNE
BLIZZARD OF OZZ

Ok Ozzy, let's get this cover shoot out of the way. Scary cat? Check. Onyx and human skulls? 10-4. So much cocaine you can barely hold yourself up holding a cross in the air? Oh, you know it, man. Besides giving us "Crazy Train" and the soaring "Mr. Crowley," this album supplies us with a number of heavy metal litigation milestones, such as the suit surrounding a troubled young man who killed himself, supposedly over the lyrics to "Suicide Solution," and loyalty arguments which Ozzy ended by re-recording the drum and bass tracks. Jesus. Mostly though, it's used as the argument that Ozzy was better out of Sabbath, which I'm still torn on.
★★★★★



TECHNO • CD PREVIEW

Techno Kids Still Love Vinyl

"Gretzky" the Dane relishes the joys of vinyl | PHOTO SUPPLIED

TECHNO WIZ DANE "GRETZKY" MACDONALD RELEASES A NEW ALBUM AND LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT THIS WEEKEND

DANKSOUL
The Common (10024-124th St.)
Feb. 12, 9 p.m.

BY YURI WUENSCH

When I caught up with Dane "Gretzky" MacDonald a few weeks ago, the conversation was, as usual, edifying stuff. The merits and market potential of THC suppositories soon gave way to a discussion about something even deeper and more pivotal. Taking a break from duties as Treehouse Wednesdays' resident DJ and beaming with pride, he pulled out a non-descript vinyl single and showed off the etching on the disc's inner ring: "DSR001." The code signifies the first release on his Danksoul Recordings imprint.

"This is just a test pressing. One of two," said MacDonald, who noted that the other pressing was in the hands of his Danksoul compatriots in Vancouver. That was then; the 500-unit strong official run of Inkwell's minimalistic "Kneesocks" is in DJ shops now, and most certainly at Treehouse Records on Whyte Avenue where MacDonald works his day job. "Please buy a copy," he implores with a chuckle.

While tomorrow night's release party at the Common will be a celebration for MacDonald and the other denizens of Danksoul techno (Brian "Bron" Wells, his partner in Forafee, and Inkwell's Cam Smith and Ryan Trann who will be in from the coast), he doesn't mind admitting that it's been blood, sweat and tears getting there.

"'Kneesocks' is actually one of the first Inkwell tracks that Ryan and Cam ever produced and it will be available for purchase as an MP3," MacDonald says, "but anyone can do a digital release, really. Releasing something on vinyl is way harder and more expensive. It's been a huge learning curve and a complete can of worms, but I think doing a really shows our commitment to quality."

If DJs and producers are gun shy about pressing records because of cost, promotional agencies and distributors are just as wary of fronting them for similar reasons. That represented another challenge that MacDonald and co. hadn't quite counted on. Even though Inkwell already had a couple of releases on reputable techno labels like Wagon Repair and Archipel, it still paid for the Danksoul boys to have friends in high places – namely established DJ and producer Nathan "Hrdvsion" Ionson.

"Nathan did a remix of our first single, but I'm not sure we would have been able to release it at all without his help," MacDonald says. "He actually happened to be out drinking with the head buyer for Wordandsound and he really went to bat for us, telling the guy that he had to give us a shot."

With distribution in place, the Danksouls also secured Tailored Communication for promotion who put "Kneesocks" into the hands of all the right taste-making DJs worldwide. The good word so far, says MacDonald, has been very good – early reviews of Danksoul's inaugural release have been universally positive. "Even the people at Tailored said that was unusual," beams MacDonald, adding that he and the boys are already looking towards DSR002.

One of the upcoming releases on Danksoul Recordings will most certainly be a Dane Gretzky minimal techno original, or perhaps something a little more subdued under his sexy Sergio Valente moniker. His works in progress, it must be said, already sound amazing. Just don't ask MacDonald if he's satisfied with them, and don't let that scruffy exterior of his fool you either. His releases will be ready when they're good and ready.

"If the process of getting our first release out has been about anything, it's been about getting the details right. I'm a perfectionist at heart."

POP PUNK • PROFILE

Do Chicks Dig It?

The boys from Calgary's Chixdiggit still have it | PHOTO SUPPLIED

THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN IN THE BUSINESS FOR YEARS, AND IN THEIR THIRD DECADE, THEY'RE STILL GOING STRONG

CHIXDIGGIT
New City Suburbs, Feb. 12

BY KORTNEY JMAEFF

When I say Calgary what comes to your mind? The Calgary Tower, the '88 Winter Olympics and some good rock and roll bands like The Stampeders or Chixdiggit, perhaps? Well, in this SEE expose, we uncover the dirty truth about native Calgarian and Chixdiggit frontman KJ Jansen. "I was born in Edmonton," says Jansen, "and I was an Edmonton Oilers fan while growing up in Calgary. It was pretty rough, and probably one of the reasons that I came into other things. I got the crap beat out of me all the time for cheering for the Oilers. I was basically by myself."

You d think that this forced solitude affected the formation of Chixdiggit and its 20-year career. Wrong! "We were peer-pressured into starting a band," says Jansen. "We weren't actually planning on doing it. We started out making T-shirts for our fictitious band and sold quite a few of them. We all worked in restaurants and made our regular customers and other waiters buy them. Our T-shirt customers wanted us to be a band. So we had a pile of money from the sales, enough to buy bad instruments and the rest is history."

This history includes a touring schedule in over 30 countries and every continent except South America. "We're basically tourists," says Jansen. "We like to travel and we're all best friends. I used to feel that touring was the only way for a band to be successful, but I think it's all different now. Everything is so muddied up by the Internet, for better or for worse. But whatever gets your music out there, I don't know if we've nailed it at all. It's way more fun to tour."

So without the typical "form a band, take over the world" aspirations to motivate them, is Jansen surprised at the two-decade career of Chixdiggit? "21 years ago I would have been surprised," he says, "but now I'm not really that surprised. Do you have any friends that you've had forever? It's kind of the same thing, like doing the same things with the friends that you've had forever. It's been a pretty fun... well I don't want to say job, but a fun thing to do."

Fun is the key ingredient in all the albums that Chixdiggit has ever released. The current Chixdiggit roster (Jansen is joined by guitarist Mark O'Flaherty, bassist Mike McLeod and drummer Jason Hirsch), are now planning to record their seventh album. "We have most of the songs ready," he says. "We're just working on a time to hit the studio to record it. It should be released this year. I can't speak of any song titles but I will say that they are my favourite songs so far. I honestly believe that we've gotten better with each record."

Whatever direction these pop-punks choose to take, one thing is for sure – in 2040 they'll probably still be touring from Toronto to Tokyo.

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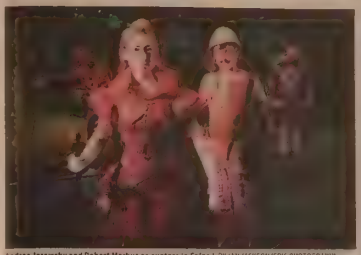
COLLECTIVE · REVIEW

Show Some Spine



Andrea Jorawsky and Robert Markus as avatars in *Spine* | BY IAN JACKSON/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

THE BFA'S NEW PLAY SHOWS SOME BACKBONE AND SOME HEART, EVEN IF IT TRIES TO TAKE ON TOO MUCH

SPINE
by Kevin Kerr, starring the University of Alberta BFA graduating class
Timms Centre for the Arts, Feb. 4-13
★★★☆☆

BY MARLISS WEBER

"Remember, in here anything is possible. You can do anything, you can be anything. Everything is an option. In here, it's not what happens, but how it happens — and with whom. Be confident if that's what you want!"

So says an Egyptian goddess in a white PVC unitard to a small pink-haired avatar figure in Kevin Kerr's *Spine*, this year's graduating BFA class' capstone project, playing now at the Timms Centre for the Arts.

Huh? Egyptian goddess? Avatar? If you've ever played *Second Life*, or even *Sims 3* or *World of Warcraft*, you'll completely get it.

And most of the twenty-somethings in the audience completely get it – that *Second Life* and other MMORPGs breathe a literal second life into those who play. A life you can control, a life where you can look and move and act however you want – issues that are particularly profound for anyone dealing with physical challenges, as addressed in this play.

Spine was co-commissioned by the University of Alberta and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and will be performed at the Special Olympics in March. So it's no surprise that the play is full of hope and understanding for people dealing with physical challenges.

A collective creation centred around two characters, James, a quadriplegic who's been in his wheelchair for 20 years and Carmela, a young actress who has recently been injured, *Spine* explores huge themes: the intersections between humans and technology, the grieving process and the process of self-discovery through times of change, our modern, computer-mediated lives and the questions of what's real and what's not in our technologically-driven society.

So, yeah. Did I mention big themes? For the most part, *Spine* presents a fascinating look at the myriad issues we all face when big life changes come our way, and for anyone who has ever dealt with even temporarily limited mobility, much of this play will feel familiar.

So in this way, Kevin Kerr and his students hit the nail on the head.

The nail is missed, however, in the scope of the production. Those huge themes could take up several plays, and indeed the final result here feels a little too unfocused, and a little too ambitious.

But you can't fault the cast for their earnest enthusiasm for the project – an enthusiasm that's palpable to even the most jaded critic in the audience.

And the second act works particularly well. Robert Shannon's gorgeous set and a spectacular lighting design by Adrian Muir make for a fantastic (in all senses of the word) imaginary techno-world in which avatars interact, dance, fall in love and get married, while their real-world counterparts learn to navigate wheelchairs and come to terms with physical and emotional limitations. There's plenty that's profound in this play, but at times the profundity is overshadowed by attempting to cover too much ground, do too much, say too much. Sometimes simplicity is best, and this show is anything but simple.

All that said, there is much about this play that works, and works well. Special kudos go to the technical team who engineered some pretty darn interesting uses of video and animation, and to some very fine acting – a real stand out is Nikolas Witschl's fantastic Japanese dialect work.

And the message is strong regardless of whatever limitations you may feel, you can be whoever you want to be.

That's a message we all need to hear from time to time. Even jaded theatre critics.

A BEAUTIFUL PLAY · PREVIEW

We've Come A Long Way, Baby

EVEN IN ALBERTA, A CHARMING STORY ABOUT YOUNG GAY LOVE JUST ISN'T THAT EDGY OR POLITICAL ANYMORE

A BEAUTIFUL THING
Written by Jonathan Harvey, directed by Jordan Bennett
Starring Doran Werner, Maura Frunza, Amelia Duplessis, Joel Taras and Randy Brzozsky
Walterdale Playhouse, Feb. 19-20

BY STACEY LAWRENCE

Playwright Jonathan Harvey came out to his parents when he was barely an adult. He gave them a few years to adjust, to support him and then at 23, he wrote *A Beautiful Thing* (then called *An Urban Fairy Tale*), a hugely successful play centred around two boys falling in love.

It was both a coming-out story for him and a response to the media in the early '90s.

"When it was written [in 1991] it was very edgy, very risky," explains director, Justen Bennett. "At that time, Jonathan Harvey wrote it as a response to what he was seeing in culture as representations of gay life. All he was seeing was self-loathing and oppression and AIDS and death and he was like, 'That's not what my life is like. That's not what I see in my life. I don't feel represented here.' So he wrote this play and at the time that was something that wasn't seen. It was new. It was something people weren't expecting."

And they liked it. Its run was sold out, all five weeks of it. Within a matter of years, *A Beautiful Thing* was made into a TV movie that was so popular it was released in theatres. It has not only been performed across the U.K. but across the world and it has been translated into several languages and has its own cult following. And yet, somehow, Walterdale's production is only the third time it's been seen in Canada, and the first time it's being performed in Alberta.

It's a love story with teeth. Set in the early 1990s in southeast London, its characters live in the humblest of circumstances. "These are poor people," says Justen. "One mother is working as a bar maid to support her son, the boy next door is being beaten, the girl next door is expelled. They insult one another. I mean they love one another, you can see that, but it's not always nice. They fight, they taunt and tease. They're rough around the edges. And in spite of all this, in the middle of these circumstances, they discover hope."

"One of the great things about it, I think," reveals Bennett, "is that back when it was written it was this big edgy play, and now it's just a great story, fantastic characters, charming humour. It's not political. I mean, for some people it will be, there are some people who are still conservative. Who still have hang-ups, who still have issues with bigotry and homophobia and ignorance, and for them it will be political because they're going to make it political. But it's not chosen for that reason. It's just a great story. It's a great play."

Doran Werner, Joel Taras and Maura Frunza in *A Beautiful Thing* | PHOTO BY DOUG A. DOLLARS

"There's something very beautiful about *A Beautiful Thing*," Bennett says. "It's just this simple, charming love story."

And it's just in time for Valentine's Day.

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NEW WORKS • FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Student-Driven Theatre Fest

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE HAS ALWAYS HAD A HOME AT THE U OF A, BUT THE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL OWNS IT

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL
Various Artists
Second Playing Space, University of Alberta
Feb. 9-14

BY AMY NEUFELD

So what do you do if you're a university student and you want to see a theatre festival done your way? You take it over, of course. That's just what students have done with the New Works Festival at the University of Alberta.

It's been 10 years since the New Works Festival debuted at the U of A, and although it has always been a student-focused event, the festival has seen some changes in that time. "Five years ago the students weren't happy with the festival and how it was executed," festival manager Ben Janko says. "We had a town hall meeting for undergraduate students in 2008 and from that meeting students were saying 'we want to be able to take charge of this and have ownership of it.'"

This year's festival will see seven new plays written by students or alumni, divided into two nights. Night A is a non-traditional evening of theatre exploring storytelling from a non-text-based direction, and will include performer-created, movement-based pieces, poetic landscapes, and a collective creation performance told without words. Night B features more traditional fare, including a screwball comedy at the beach, a family drama and a play that describes the world before and after the rapture.

Experimental performances at the New Works Festival | PHOTO SUPPLIED

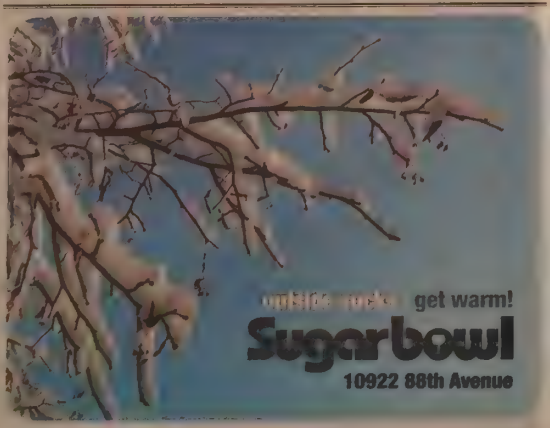
There is very little faculty involvement in the festival (besides supporting the plays with their attendance), and students take on all of the necessary roles, including writing, directing and mentoring. "Two years ago the festival doubled in size and we've really expanded what we've done with production and design elements to fully realize the new plays," Janko says. "There's a student group associated with the festival that advises and guides New Works."

In addition to students taking ownership of the New Works Festival, the scope of participation has broadened in recent years. "The festival is the only thing at the university that engages every single program in the drama department. We're a fundamental glue for all of the students to come together, to meet each other and to work together," he explains. MFA students now direct a show in the festival as part of their course work. "I think the MFA candidates really look forward to working with the undergrad students. The mentorship possibilities there are really great."

It's Janko's hope that the New Works organizers will ensure that the festival remains student-friendly in years to come. "We want to make it a good enough process that people will want to do it for four years, and the growth that we've seen recently will be sustained."

Although plays begin in the New Works Festival, many will find lives outside of the university walls. Janko says each year at least two of the plays go on to productions at Next Fest or the Fringe after having benefitted from the mentorship and performance process at the New Works Festival.

As the 10th birthday of the New Works Festival approaches I begin to think about what this pre-pubescent event would be like if it were a person, so I pose the question to Janko. After a pause he tells me, "I think it would be the person who is willing to try anything, say yes, and experiment."



EDMONTON ART CLUB · PROFILE

For The Love Of Painting

THEY'VE BEEN AROUND FOR ALMOST 90 YEARS, BUT THE EDMONTON ART CLUB IS STILL GROWING AND SHOWING

EDMONTON'S PLAYGROUNDS
McMullen Gallery, University of Alberta Hospital
until March 21

BY [illegible]

I knew I was going to enjoy meeting Noreen Richardson, president of the Edmonton Art Club, during our phone conversation.

"Should we both wear carnations?" she asked, so that we would know each other on our first blind meeting. How very romantic, I thought.

"I have short blonde hair," I said, having recently lost my favorite blue scarf that would have been the perfect marker.

"Well ... I'm old," Richardson replied. Enough said.

I hung up the phone laughing.

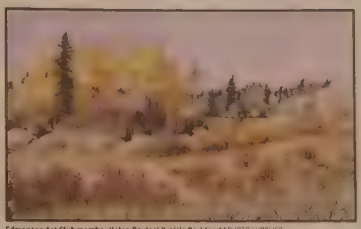
When we met at the McMullen Gallery ■ the University of Alberta Hospital where the Edmonton Art Club is exhibiting a variety of new works by its members, I knew Richardson right away by her white hair and knowing smile. Sitting amongst the bright watercolours of the "Edmonton's Playground" show, we chatted about the club.

Since its inception in 1921, the group's mandate has been "cultivating and enhancing the art of its members." Today that translates into two or three exhibitions a year and monthly meetings where members critique each other's work. Back in the day, membership meant "sketching picnics," and art classes were usually taught by someone who had been trained in Britain and who scoffed at the "terrible experiments" of impressionism, post-impressionism, cubism and anything considered futuristic for the time. And while they invited members of the Group of Seven to add their art to their early exhibitions, a member's opinion was voiced in 1926 saying, "without the scientific advertising and the extremes of artistic licence present in their art, the Group [of Seven] would have sunk into oblivion."

However, this conservative little group actually helped to found the leading art institutions of our city. Its early members helped to start the Edmonton Museum of Art (today's Art Gallery of Alberta), and the Alberta Society of Artists. The club's teachers began the visual arts program at the University of Alberta.

And though it seems from Richardson's perspective that these institutions with "intimate" connections have "outgrown" the club, it was never the club's intention to be more than it is right now, a place for artists to improve.

"You wouldn't belong if you didn't want to have your painting critiqued and framed and hung somewhere," she said of the group's main priority. And, she added with a smile, "You know, in some of Picasso's work there are a few corners that are a little bit messy. I don't know what they'd say."



Edmonton Art Club member Helen Davies' Prairie Parkland | PHOTO SUPPLIED

So, it's not surprising that the work that brightens the walls of the McMullen Gallery is flawless to the detail. "Albertans like Alberta landscapes," Richardson said, "and they like recognizable places." That's what sells. So you should recognize a few skylines, a few buildings, a few fall scenes and a few popular Alberta activities, but you may not expect the way they're presented. Members "have expanded what they're producing," Richardson said. Though the show is predominantly watercolours, a few abstract and wax artists have even chiselled their way into the Edmonton Art Club, which is no small feat on their part considering the group's past palette.

But "for a lot of [the members] the important thing is not selling the painting, it's doing the painting," and a pride in their work is evident on Richardson's face as we chat.

Oh, and look out Art Gallery of Alberta, your roots are showing. Richardson said, "Sooner or later we'll drop in and have a little chat."

FISH (cont'd from p. 16)

Treejam, where he deadpanned most of the songs were about eBay and was boosted by Gavin Dunn's sampling on the way over with his iPod microphone. Truly clever.

I'd love to throw together a "devices" show – Electroplankton's four-track sampler and the now-writable multitracks on the newer Nintendo DSIs, the Piano Cats app on iPod Touches, the artificial motor drive of a digital SLR as rhythm, then maybe just walk the whole thing around a room with cigarette package speakers.

But let's leave technology behind for a moment and get creative.

I came out pretty strong against the Olympics, but I'll admit a cultural chauvinism to again draw fair attention to the fact our prime minister used them as an excuse to fucking *suspend government*.

Anyway, instead of sniffling, I'll let you in on a little game some friends have going called Olympigus. Scoring like golf, where every exposure to anything 2010 Games gets you a point, the idea is to avoid eye/ear-contact with all media, Internet advertising, bar TVs and even conversations dropped on you by unimaginative co-workers wearing – really? – a minimum two kinds of official merchandise. Even if you see one of those little fucking Chewbacca monsters, that's a point. Timeline from opening ceremonies to closing. If nothing else, it's a way to statistically measure just how complicit our entire society is in facilitating this patriotism-manipulating, jingoistic economic gangbang. Good luck!

Lastly, a reminder: Valentine's Day is upon us and you need not be so god-damned lonely about it. This Sunday, the Black Dog is hosting Valentine Blues 2 featuring Bombchan, the Southern Pink and the Jonny McCormack Trio. Down the street at the Empress, Mark Davis and Miss Mannered are back with Concealer, a name which magically elicits both Davis' country roots (as in "that rattlesnake was a real concealer in mah boot there") and MM's whole pansexual mystique (as in "I can't believe how well this concealer from Sephora works").

Hopefully they'll pardon the ridiculous stereotypes, not to mention that Valentine's Day must necessarily be a bad thing, though of course, it completely is in every way.

LISTINGS

SEE

SOMETHING'S ENTERTAINING EDMONTON

have something going on? let us know | **listings@see.greatwest.ca**

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

Wilco, Jubilee Auditorium, Feb. 15. 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11

[illegible] | **FOR THE LOVE OF WINE** An opportunity to call in sick due [illegible] overzealous consumption. Simply tell your boss, that you got shitfaced raising money [illegible] the Kids Kottage Foundation. Sutton Place Hotel 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12

[illegible] | **SAME GENDER SPEED DATING** Maybe you WILL get laid after all, this Valentine's Day! If you aren't successful finding a gay playmate, you can always crawl into the gorilla's cage and get wild. Valley Zoo, 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 13

peep show | **CAPITAL CITY BURLESQUE** If you want to see some tantalizing dancing that will [illegible] your girlfriend's moves to bed, this is the show to catch. If you look hard enough, you might even see a nipple. Hooray! New City, 9 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14

music | **HOT PANDA** I don't care if this is what you call your mate when you're in the sack. With opening bands such as Sans Aids, and Rah Rah, this is one local act you don't want to miss. Pawn Shop, 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15

music | ***WILCO*** Just when you thought the romance was over, our dear friends come to town to put your gift of flowers to shame. This band has been stealing the hearts of many since '94. Why stop when you're ahead? Jubilee Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16

fresh [illegible] | **ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA** Instead of playing Chatroulette for the umpteenth time this week, why don't you head to the new Art Gallery of Alberta, and check out the new exhibits, while having a look at some breathtaking architecture.

FEBRUARY 17

theatre | **BEAUTIFUL THING** Not quite sick of the sap? Catch Jonathan Harvey's tale of two boys, who, in the middle of the dreary, bleak setting of a London council estate, discover sparks of life and love. How precious. Walterdale Playhouse, 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 18

[illegible] | **IRISH DESCENDANTS** If your expecting a man named O'Mally to beat the piss out of [illegible] best friend after too many pints, perhaps this isn't what you're looking for. These lads are sure to have your feet stomping at the end of the night. Century Casino, 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19

[illegible] | **THE EDMONTON SHOW** Live music, live painting, DJ's, theatrical performances, and an art sale. Everything Edmonton, without the shitty hockey team. A great way to get out and see just what the art scene has up its sleeve. Avenue Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 20

[illegible] | **STEVE AOKI** The DJ who would love nothing more than [illegible] pour vodka in your mouth, and make all the girls' makeup run from perspiration. A gentleman, if you will. Joining him, [illegible] his good friend MSTRKRFT. Edmonton Event Centre, 9 p.m.

MUSIC

THURSDAY

Live Music

DANG THAI SON PIANO RECITAL *MUTTART HALL ALBERTA COLLEGE, 10050 MACDONALD DR.* 7:30 p.m. Tickets: 477-1757/www.tixonthesquare.ca.
MANUELA *JEFFREY'S CAFÉ & WINE BAR, 9640-142 ST.*
MICHAEL BERNARD FITZGERALD *STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST.* With The Loud Love Choir. 8 p.m.
PETER BELEC *RIC'S GRILL (ST. ALBERT) 24 PERRON ST.* 7 p.m.
PLAID-TONGUED DEVILS *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Vibe Tribe.
SHOTGUN JIMMIE *LIKWID LOUNGE, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Kisses of Fire and Mountain House. 9 p.m.

DJs/Club Nights

EAZY DUZ IT THURSDAYS *THE COMMON, 10124-124 ST.* With DJ's Shortee and Sonny Grimezz.
GONG SHOW BINGO *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*
DJ GUNDAM *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
NOTORIOUS THURSDAYS DANCEHALL *STOLLI'S, #201 10368 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Footnotes and ConScience.
RADIO BRIXX *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* With Tommy Grimes. 8 p.m.
RUMP SHAKIN THURSDAYS *WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS, 8120-101 ST.* With DJ Thermos.
SIN THURSDAYS *LUCKY 13, 10551-82 AVE.* With DJ Mike Tomas.
SURELY TEMPLE THURSDAYS *TEMPLE, 10030-102 ST.* Doors at 9 p.m.
SYDNEY BLU *PULSE8 NIGHTCLUB, 10544-82 AVE.* With Leonardo D'Este, DJ Loki and Ernest Ledi. 9 p.m.
THIS IS IT THURSDAYS *FLUID LOUNGE, 10105-109 ST.* 10 p.m.
THROWBACK THURSDAYS *PROHIBITION, 11026 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Service
THURSDAYS FO SHO *HALO, 10538 JASPER AVE.* With Allout DJ's, DJ Degree, and Junior Brown.
TIGHT JAMS THURSDAYS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Mike B. and Brosnake.
TOPWISE SOUNDSYSTEM *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (LOWER LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.*

WINTER BLUES AND ROOTS ROUND-UP

SEE

FEB 25 — *THE BLUES OF FOLKWAYS RECORDS — WITH MARK HUMMEL, RUSTY ZINN, GRAHAM GUEST, DAVID REA, AND RON RAULT.* Yardbird Suite, 8 p.m.
FEB 26 — *MARK HUMMEL & THE BLUES SURVIVORS.* Blue Chair Café, 8 p.m.
FEB 27 — *THE SPIRIT OF MIKE SEEGER — WITH DAVID REA, TERRY MCDADE, AND BYRON MYHRE.* Fiddler's Roost, 8 p.m.
FEB 27 — *ALVIN "YOUNGBLOOD" HART — WITH MIKE B.C. PARK.* Blue Chair Café, 8 p.m.
FEB 27 — *THE MUSIC OF CHESS RECORDS — WITH "CRAWDAD" CANTERA AND FRIENDS.* Newcastle Pub & Grill, 9 p.m.
FEB 28 — *ALVIN "YOUNGBLOOD" HART — WITH MIKE B.C. PARK.* Blue Chair Café, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Live Music

ALEXANDRA ADAMOSKI *FRESH START BAKERY & BISTRO, 484 RIVERBEND SQUARE*
C.R. AVERY *HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 15120A STONY PLAIN RD.*
CHIXDIGGIT! *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Old Wives, and Zero Cool. 9 p.m.
DANSOUL *THE COMMON, 10124-124 ST.* Vinyl release party. With Inkwell, ForaFee, and Kinsella & Mowe Lowe. 9 p.m.
DAVID OCCHIPINTI TRIO *YARDBIRD SUITE, #11 TOMMY BANKS WAY*
DEEP DARK WOODS *ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, NORWOOD BRANCH, 11150-82 ST.*
DR. BLU *JEFFREY'S CAFÉ & WINE BAR, 9640-142 ST.*
THE GROOVY GANG *ST. ALBERT SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB, 7 TACHE ST, ST.ALBERT* A concert featuring selections from the Academy Awards. 7 p.m.
HEADWIND *JEKYLL & HYDE PUB, 10209-100 AVE.* 9 p.m.
HILLTOP HOODS *PAWN SHOP, 2ND FL. 10551-82 AVE.* 6 p.m.
LIVE MUSIC *STEEPS (OLD GLENORA), 12411 STONY PLAIN RD.* Doors at 8:30 p.m.
LORNE BURNSTICK BAND *LB'S PUB, #110, 23 AKINS DR. ST. ALBERT* 9:30 p.m.
RUBIM DE TOLEDO *ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM THEATRE, 12845-102 AVE.* With the Edmonton Jazz Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: 420-1757/www.tixonthesquare.ca.
SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE *CONVOCATION HALL UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, 113 ST. AND 91 AVE.* CD release. Presented by the University of Alberta. 8 a.m.
TROOPER *CENTURY CASINO, 13103 FORT RD.* Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
VISHTÈN *HORIZON STAGE, 1001 CALAHOO ROAD, SPRUCE GROVE* 7:30 p.m. Info: www.horizonstage.com/962-8995.

DJs/Club Nights

4 PLAY FRIDAYS *ENCORE CLUB, #116, 957-FIR ST.* With DJ Imho Austin.
DJ ALEXX BROWN AND EDDIE TOONFLASH *PLAY NIGHT CLUB, 10220-103 ST.*
DJ ARROW CHASER *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 8 p.m.
BEER FEST FRIDAYS *LUCKY 13, 10551-82 AVE.*
BELIEVE IN FRIDAYS *HALO, 10538 JASPER AVE.*
DJ CHRISTIAN *GAS PUMP NIGHTCLUB & BAR, 10166-114 ST.* With DJ Travis.
DJ DONOVAN *NEWCASTLE PUB AND GRILL, 6108-90 AVE.*
DJ LEE DUB *THE NEST @ NAIT, 11762-106 ST.* 4:30 p.m.
DJ PAPI AND DJ LATIN SENSATION *AZUCAR PICANTE, 13062-50 ST.*
DJ SERVICE *PROHIBITION, 11026 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Shortee.
DJ SEXXXY *BOOTS BAR, 10242-106 ST.*
DJ SHAWNIBIS *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.*
FLOSSIN' FRIDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.* With Bomb Squad, and DJ Solja.
FLUID FRIDAYS *FLUID LOUNGE, 10105-109 ST.* With DJ Tony Sanchez. 4 p.m.
FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS *EMPIRE BALLROOM (WEM)*
FORMULA FRIDAYS *LEVEL-2-LOUNGE, 11607 JASPER AVE.* With David Stone and DJ Neebz. 9:30 p.m.
FREE AND FRESH FRIDAYS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Mart It Fresh & Free the DJ.
FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY *DIRTY PRETTY, 8111-105 ST.* With DJ Ty Collins.
INTERNATIONAL FRIDAYS *PULSE8 NIGHTCLUB, 10544-82 AVE.* 9 p.m.
LADIES NIGHT *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*
MIKEY WONG *THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE.* CD release. With Benny Hawk, Ryan Wade, and Seelo Nahal. 9 p.m.
MIND FUNK FRIDAYS *TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS, 10018-105 ST.* Doors at 2 a.m.
MOVIN' ON UP FRIDAYS *RED STAR, 10538 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Gatto, and DJ Mega Wattson.
PARTY ALARMA VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* With Computer Love, Warrior Music, and Phatcat. 9 p.m.
PEOPLE'S DJ *STOLLI'S, #201, 10368 WHYTE AVE.*
PLATINUM VIP FRIDAYS *CHROME LOUNGE, 104-550 CLAREVIEW RD.*
SEXY FRIDAY *180 DEGREES, 10730-107 AVE.*
SOLICE FRIDAYS *ROUGE LOUNGE, 10111-117 ST.*
SWEATBOX *THE COMMON, 10124-124 ST.* Every third Friday of the month. 9 p.m.
UNDERGROUND SOUND *ATTIC BAR & LOUNGE, 10407 WHYTE AVE.*

SATURDAY

Live Music

ALWAYS OFTEN *JEFFREY'S CAFÉ & WINE BAR, 9640-142 ST.* 8 p.m.
CALISTA *COAST TO COAST PUB AND GRILL, 552 CALGARY TR.* With Jenie Thai. 8:30 p.m.
GOSPEL NIGHT CONCERT *JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, 11455-87 AVE.* 7 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
HAIR OF THE DOG *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* Live acoustic. 4 p.m.
HÅVARD WIIK TRIO *YARDBIRD SUITE, #11 TOMMY BANKS WAY*
JENN GRANT *CONVOCATION HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, 113 ST. AND [illegible] AVE.* With Jason Plumb and The Willing. 7 p.m.
JOHNNY DYER AND LYNWOOD SLIM *BONNIE DOON HALL, 9240-93 ST.* With the Jim Guiboche Band, and The Flying Crawdads. 7 p.m.
MALIS *AVONMORE HALL, 7903-73 AVE.* With Book Of Caverns, Gyre Spire & Spindle, A Knight At The Princess Academy, and Troy Snaterse. 6:45 p.m.
THE MCGOWAN FAMILY BAND *RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE.* With Evoletah and The Consonance. 8 p.m.
NATALIE MACMASTER *DOW CENTENNIAL CENTRE, 8700-84 ST, FORT SASKATCHEWAN* With Donnell Leahy. 3 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE *PAWN SHOP, 2ND FL. 10551-82 AVE.* Show at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.
RUSSELL JACKSON *BLUES ON WHYTE, 10329 WHYTE AVE.*
SAM BAKER *QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL, 10425 UNIVERSITY AVE.* With Gurl Moriiz. 7 p.m. Tickets: www.tixonthesquare.ca/420-1757
TRUMAN *HILL TOP PUB, 8220-106 AVE.* 6 p.m.
VIOLET HOUR *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* With With Hands Like These and Type Monkey Type. 9 p.m.
THE WOODEN SKY *PAWN SHOP, 2ND FL. 10551-82 AVE.*

DJs/Club Nights

CAPITAL CITY BURLESQUE *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With DJ's Dervish, Blue Jay, and Anonymouse.
DJ CHRISTIAN *GAS PUMP NIGHTCLUB & BAR, 10166-114 ST.* With DJ Travis.
DANCE HALL REGGAE NIGHT *180 DEGREES, 10730-107 AVE.* With Generation IIVEXX. Doors at 10 p.m. Info: 414-0233.
DJ EARTH SHIVER 'N' QUAKE *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 8 p.m.
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW *HALO, 10538 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, Nestor Delano, and Ari Rhodes.
GONE GOLD *FLUID LOUNGE, 10105-109 ST.* With Harmen B and DJ Kwake.
I LOVE BASS *STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST.* With DJ Eprom, EmalKay, and Eskmo. 9 p.m.
LADIES NIGHT *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*
LADIES NIGHT *THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Russell James, and DJ FFWD.
LADY LUCK SATURDAYS *LUCKY 13, 10551-82 AVE.*
THE MENACE SESSIONS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
OH SNAP! *TEMPLE, 10030-102 ST.* With Degree, Cobra Commander, and DJ Battery. 9 p.m.
PUNK RAWK SATURDAYS WITH TODD AND ALEX *LIKWID LOUNGE, 10081 JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.
REALLY BIG TIDAL WAVE *CLANSMEN RUGBY HALL, 11060-111 AVE.* With Hoola Hoop, B Hits, Derailed, Drop Dead Dave, Dub Affiliate, Fizzbx, Joy One, and more. 8 p.m.
DJ SEXXXY *BOOTS BAR, 10242-106 ST.*
DJ SHERI *NEWCASTLE PUB AND GRILL, 6108-90 AVE.*
SIGNATURE SOUND SATURDAYS *LEVEL-2 LOUNGE, 11607 JASPER AVE.* With DJ's Travis Mateeson, Big Daddy, Tweek and Mr Wedge. 9:30 p.m.
DJ SOUNDWAVE *BACKROOM VODKA BAR, 10324A-82 AVE.*
SO SWEET SATURDAYS *ENCORE CLUB, #116, 957-FIR ST.* With DJ Love Jones.
SOULOUT SATURDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.* 9 p.m.
SOUND IT UP! *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Sonny Grimezz.
STOLLI'S SATURDAYS *STOLLI'S, #201, 10368 WHYTE AVE.*

COMING

FEB 13 — *NATALIE MCMASTER* Dow Centennial Theatre
FEB 15 — *WILCO* Jubilee Auditorium
FEB 20 — *STEVE AOKI* Edmonton Event Centre
FEB 21 — *AN EVENING WITH THE FRAY* Winspear Centre
FEB 22 — *YACHT* Pawn Shop
FEB 24 — *WOODHANDS* Pawn Shop
FEB 25 — *CORB LUND* Jubilee Auditorium
FEB 25 — *SEAN PAUL* Edmonton Event Centre
MAR 4 — *CHAMPION & HIS G-STRINGS* Starlite Room
MAR 4-6 — *ROB SCHNEIDER* The Comic Strip
MAR 5 — *STUART MCLEAN & VINYL CAFÉ* Dow Centennial Theatre
MAR 6 — *MERLE HAGGARD* River Cree Casino
MAR 7 — *MEGADEATH* Shaw Conference Centre
MAR 14 — *JESSE COOK* Jubilee Auditorium
MAR 14 — *HAWKSLEY WORKMAN* Winspear Centre
MAR 14 — *VAMPIRE WEEKEND* Edmonton Event Centre
MAR 14 — *JESSE COOK* Jubilee Auditorium
MAR [illegible] — *BILLY TALENT* Rexall Place
MAR 19 — *ELECTRIC SIX* Starlite Room
MAR 20 — *CHEECH AND CHONG* River Cree Casino
MAR 20 — *TECH N9NE* Starlite Room

SEEN IT LIVE · GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK

Amy Shostak leads three functionally-blind dancers through the Art Gallery of Alberta's first Refinery party. | FISH GRIWKOWSKY PHOTO

With Peoples DJ.
SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS *PLANET INDIGO, 11607 JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.
SURVIVAL METAL NIGHT *RENDEZVOUS PUB, 10108-149 ST.*
UNDERGROUND SOUND *ATTIC BAR & LOUNGE, 10407 WHYTE AVE.*

SUNDAY

Live Music

BOMBCHAN *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With The Southern Pink, and The Jonny McCormack Trio. 8 p.m.
BROKEN HEARTS BALL *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* With Greg Gory and guests. 9 p.m.
CELTIC MUSIC SESSION *DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB, 9013-88 AVE.* Hosted by Keri-Lynn Zwicker. Doors at 4 p.m.
ET QUARTET *STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST.* With Random Falter. 9 p.m.
HOT PANDA *PAWN SHOP, 2ND FL. 10551-82 AVE.* With Sans Aids and Rah Rah. 8 p.m.
JAZZ ON THE SIDE SUNDAYS *BLUE PEAR, 10643-123 ST.*
PETRO POLUJIN *ROYAL COACH DINING ROOM, 4274-137 AVE.* 5 p.m.

DJs/Club Nights

BITCH BITCH BITCH *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With DJ's Dervish and Anonymouse. 9 p.m.
COME GET LOVED *THE COMMON, 10124-124 ST.* A Valentine's Day celebration with DJ Service and Greg O. 9 p.m.
DJ BOBBY BEATZ *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.*
FREQUENCY 2010 *SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE, 9797 JASPER AVE.* Featuring Paul Van Dyk, Ferry Corsten, and Benny Benassi. 7 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
LADIES INDUSTRY SUNDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.*
METAL MATINEE *CROWN PUB, 10709-109 ST.* 6 p.m.
METAL SUNDAYS *WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS, 8120-101 ST.* With DJ Diecast. 8:30 p.m.
SHOCKER SUNDAYS *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.

MONDAY

Live Music

THE FAMILY BOOGIE PARTY *DOW CENTENNIAL CENTRE, 8700-84 ST, FORT SASKATCHEWAN* With Bobby Boogaloo. Info: 992-6400.
FAMILY DAY MULTICULTURAL CONCERT *WINSPEAR CENTRE, 9720-102 AVE.* Presented by the Edmonton Folks Arts Council. 2 p.m.
JESSE D *DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB, 9013-88 AVE.*
LONG WEEKEND SUNDAY *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.* With 80-D.
THIS WILL HURT YOU MONDAYS *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Johnny Neck and his Job.
WILCO *JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, 11455-87 AVE.* Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.

DJs/Club Nights

BLUE JAY'S MESSY NEST *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Blue Jay.
DJ DUST 'N TIME *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.
INDUSTRIAL MONDAYS *LUCKY [illegible] 10551-82 AVE.* With DJ Chad Cook.
METAL MONDAYS *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*

TUESDAY

Live Music

CELTIC JAM *O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB, 10616 WHYTE AVE.* With Shannon Johnson and friends.
LINDSAY WOOLGAR QUARTET *YARDBIRD SUITE, #11, TOMMY BANKS WAY* 8 p.m.
LIVE ACOUSTIC *THE HAT, 10251 JASPER AVE.* Doors at 9 p.m.
OVERTIME SOUTH *OVERTIME SOUTH, 160-4211 106 ST.* 9 p.m.
TROUBADOUR TUESDAYS *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* 9 p.m.

DJs/Club Nights

DJ ARROWCHASER *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.*
BASHMENT TUESDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.* 9 p.m.
EDDIE LUNCHPAIL *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
JORDAN WATSON *RED STAR, 10538 JASPER AVE.* 5 p.m.
ROCKSTAR TUESDAYS *SUITE 69, 8232 GATEWAY BLVD.* With Usual Suspect, Tyler Collins, Six it Iz. 9 p.m.
TURBO TUESDAYS *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*
WOOD & SOO *SUITE 69, 8232 GATEWAY BLVD.* With All Out DJ's, Usual Suspects, TYCO, and Six It Iz. 9 p.m.
DJ XAOLIN & JAE MAZE *CROWN PUB, 10709-109 ST.* 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Live Music

AMELIA KAMINSKI AND GAIL OLMSTEAD *MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH, 10025-101 ST.* 12:10 p.m.
DUELING PIANOS *OVERTIME SOUTH, 160-4211 106 ST.* 9 p.m.
DUFF ROBINSON *DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB, 9013-88 AVE.*

DJs/Club Nights

BANK ON WEDNESDAYS *THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Mike Tomas, and DJ FFWD.
BEAT PARTY WEDNESDAYS *STOLLI'S, #201, 10368 WHYTE AVE.*
DJ DUST 'N TIME *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.
DJ ROXXU SLADE *LIKWID LOUNGE, 10081 JASPER AVE.*
MASHED UP WEDNESDAYS *ATTIC BAR & LOUNGE, 10407 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Simon Said, and DJ Andru Joseph.
PINT NIGHT *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*
RETROACTIVE RADIO *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
SOUL/BREAKS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Dr. Erick.
TREEHAUS WEDNESDAYS *THE COMMON, 10124-124 ST.*
WEDNESDAYS ROCK THIS *FLUID LOUNGE, 10105-109 ST.* **WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS** *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.*
WYLD STYLE WEDNESDAY *TEMPLE, 10030-102 ST.* Live hiphop. With DJ Reno and DJ Footnotes. 9 p.m.

Ongoing

Live Music

CATALYST *CASINO EDMONTON, 7055 ARGYLL RD.* FEB 12-13
CHUCK BROWN *SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB (DOWNTOWN), 10012-101A AVE.* FEB 16-20
COLLEEN RAE & CORNERSTONE *YELLOWHEAD CASINO, 12464-153 ST.* FEB 12-13
DERINA HARVEY *SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB (DOWNTOWN), 10012-101A AVE.* TO FEB 13
DUFF ROBISON *ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL, 7704-104 [illegible]* TO FEB 13 9:30 p.m.
GRAHAM LAWRENCE *JULIAN'S PIANO BAR, 11727 KINGSWAY AVE.* TO FEB 13 8 p.m.
KYLER SCHOGEN BAND *WHISTLE STOP LOUNGE, 12416-132 AVE.* FEB 12-13 9 p.m.
LOVE JUNK *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.* FEB 13-[illegible]
LYLE HOBBS *TOUCH OF CLASS GAMING ROOM, 11727 KINGSWAY AVE.* FEB 12-13 8:30 p.m.
MISTER LUCKY *O'MAILLE'S IRISH PUB, #104, 398 ST. ALBERT ROAD, MISSION HILL PLAZA* FEB 12-13 8 p.m.
THE PARTY HOG *SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB (WEM), 8882-170 ST.* TO FEB 13
ROB TAYLOR *DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB, 9013-88 AVE.* FEB 12-13
TONY DIZON *SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB (WEM), 8882-170 ST.* FEB 16-20
WINTERFEST *NORWOOD LEGION, 11150-82 ST.* FEB 12-13 With Jessica Heine, Andrea House and Chris Smith, The Deep Dark Woods and The Swiftys, Kevin Smith and Beth Portman, Maura Hagen, Scott Cook, Stewart MacDougall, Bobby Cameron, Duane Steele and Tim Hus. Friday 6 p.m. Saturday 11:30 p.m. Info: www.uptownfolkclub.ca. Tickets: www.tixonthesquare.ca.

OPEN STAGE

THURSDAY

DV8 *8307-99 ST.* Info: 760-0077.
DUELING PIANO SHOWS *IVORY CLUB, 10304-111 ST.* Every Thu 8 p.m., Fri & Sat 9 p.m.
HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB *15120A STONY PLAIN RD.* 6:30 p.m.
HERE COME THE ZOOMERS *9351-118 AVE.* 1 p.m. Info: 752-4867.
HOOLIGANZ PUB *10704-124 ST.* 8 p.m.
JR GRILL & BAR *4003-106 ST.* Doors at 9 p.m.
JAMMERS PUB *11948-127 AVE.* 7 p.m.
LB'S *#110, 23 AKINS DR. ST. ALBERT* 9 p.m.
LIVE WIRE BAR *1107 KNOTTWOOD RD. EAST* Info: 450-2418.
NAKED CYBERCAFE *10354 JASPER AVE.* 8 p.m.
NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY HALL *13535-109A AVE.* 7 p.m. Info: 484-3801.

FRIDAY

COAST TO COAST PUB AND GRILL *552 CALGARY TR.* Doors at 9 p.m.
DUELING PIANO SHOWS *IVORY CLUB, 10304-111 ST.* Every Thu 8 p.m., Fri & Sat 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHYTE *10329 WHYTE AVE.* Doors at 4 p.m.
CARROT ARTS COFFEE HOUSE *9351-118 AVE.* Music and poetry open mic. Doors at 7 p.m.
CROWN PUB *10709-109 ST.* 2 p.m. Info: 428-5618.
DUELING PIANO SHOWS *IVORY CLUB, 10304-111 ST.* Every Thu 8 p.m., Fri & Sat 9 p.m.
HILLTOP PUB *8220-106 AVE.* Info: 490-7359.
JAMMERS PUB *11948-127 AVE.* 7 p.m.
MORANGO'S TEK CAFE *10118-79 ST.* Doors at 7 p.m.
OPEN JAM WITH LENNIE AND THE CATS *LB'S PUB, #110, 23 AKINS DR. ST. ALBERT* 5 p.m.
STRATHERN PUB *9514-87 ST.* Second Saturday of each month. 5 p.m.

SUNDAY

BEER HUNTERS *386 ST. ALBERT RD, ST. ALBERT*
EDDIE SHORTS *10713-124 ST.* Doors at 9 p.m.
HULBERT'S *7601-115 ST.* Doors at 7 p.m.
LIKWID LOUNGE *10081 JASPER AVE.* Doors at 9 p.m.
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL *6108-90 AVE.* Doors at 3 p.m.
O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB *10616 WHYTE AVE.* Doors at 9 p.m.
OPEN MIC: ROCK & BLUES JAM *BUNKERS ROAD HOUSE, 615 HERMITAGE RD.* 4 p.m.
ORLANDO'S 2 PUB & GRILL *#2, 13509-127 ST.* Doors at 3 p.m.
SONGWRITER'S STAGE *HYDEAWAY ALL AGES ART SPACEM 10209-100 AVE.* 7 p.m.

MONDAY

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB *9013-88 AVE.* Doors at 8 p.m.
IVORY CLUB *10304-111 ST.* Doors at 8 p.m.
ROSE BOWL *ROUGE LOUNGE, 10111-117 ST.* Doors at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

AMMARS MOOSEHEAD TUESDAY *LB'S PUB, #110, 23 AKINS DR. ST. ALBERT* 9 p.m.
THE DRUID *11606 JASPER AVE.* Doors at 9 p.m.
SIDELINER'S PUB *11018-127 ST.* Doors at 8 p.m.
SPORTSMAN'S LOUNGE *8170-50 ST.* Doors at 8 p.m.
STEEPS OLD GLENORA *12411 STONY PLAIN RD.* Doors at 7:30 p.m.
TAP HOUSE *9020 MCKENNY AVE. ST. ALBERT* Acoustic open stage. 9 p.m.

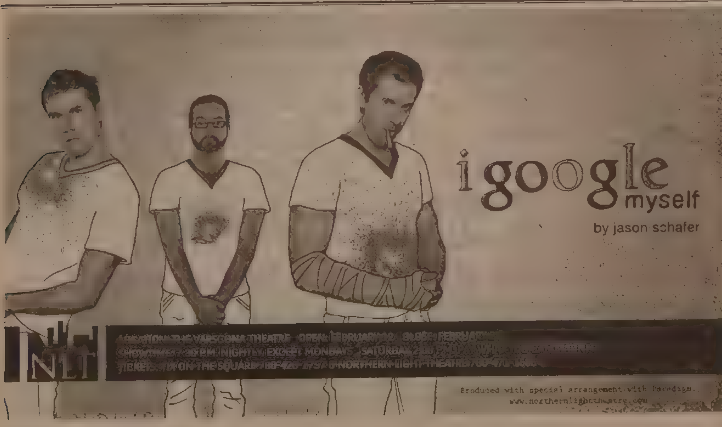
WEDNESDAY

BO'DIDDLY'S ROADHOUSE *101 MILL WOODS TOWN CENTRE* 8 p.m.
EDDIE SHORTS *10713-124 ST.* Doors at 9 p.m.
HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB *15120A STONY PLAIN RD.* 7:30 p.m.
IVORY CLUB *10304-111 ST.* Open DJ night. 9 p.m.
LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE *FIDDLER'S ROOST, 8906-99 ST.* Doors at 8 p.m.
PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL *10860-57 AVE.* Acoustic bluegrass only. Doors at 7:30 p.m.
SECOND CUP *12336-102 ST.* Doors at 8 p.m.
WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS *8120-101 ST.*

EXHIBITS

3 OCTOBERS *FLAVOURS MODERN BISTRO, 10354 WHYTE AVE.* TO MAR 11 A photography exhibition by Tracey Tomtene, documenting 3 Octobers in New York city. Info: www.traceytomtene.com.
5 ARTISTS ONE LOVE *TU GALLERY, 10718-124 ST.* TO FEB 27 A Celebration of Black History Month, featuring artwork by Jowanna Alleyne, Lorien Mahey, Lisa Mayes, Brett Miles, and Elsa Robinson.
ALBERTA AND BEYOND *ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL, 455 KING ST. SPRUCE GROVE* TO FEB 20 Landscape paintings by Karen Bishop. Info: 962-0664
ART GALLERY *KAMENA GALLERY, 5718 CALGARY TRAIL* Featuring various artwork. Info: 944-9497.
AT THE SAME TIME *THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE.* TO MAR 6 A contemporary group photography exhibition. Info: 965-4498/487-1880.
THE BMO WORLD OF CREATIVITY *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* TO MAY 30 Discover how the buildings around you are designed with an interactive hands-on space, where children and their grown-ups can explore their creativity.
BOOK DESIGN IN CANADA *FAB GALLERY, FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A* TO FEB 20 An exhibit covering books in eight categories (Children's, Limited Editions, Pictorial, Poetry, Prose Fiction, Prose Non-fiction, Prose Non-fiction Illustrated, and Reference) published in 2008. Info: 492-2081.
BOOK, JACKET & JOURNAL SHOW *FAB GALLERY, FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A* TO FEB 20 A show to recognize the achievement in the design, production and the manufacture of books, jackets, covers and journals by members of the university press community. Info: 492-2081.
BUILDING ART *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, [illegible] SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* TO MAY 30 Photographs of the Building of the AGA by Edward Burtynsky.
COLOURS *STUDIO GALLERY, 11 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT* TO FEB 27 Paintings by Heather Howard and Miles Constable. Info: 460-5993.
COMPOSITIONS *VAAA GALLERY, 10215-112 ST.* TO FEB 13 Photography by Chris Gavigan, and paintings by Sharon Simonds Chia. Info: 421-1731.
THE DISASTERS OF WAR AND LOS CAPRICHOS *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* TO MAY 30 Print work by Franciso Goya. Info: www.youraga.ca/422-6223.
A DOG DAY AFTERNOON *CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE.* TO FEB 28 Acrylic paintings and monotype prints by Father Douglas. Info: 471-1580.
EDMONTON'S PLAYGROUNDS *MCMULLEN GALLERY, 8440-112 ST.* TO MAR 21 Illustrations by members of the Edmonton Art Club. Info: 407-7152.
EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY *HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY, 3RD FLR, 10215-112 ST.* TO FEB 13 Bronze sculptures by Chris Cooper. Info: 426-4180
FIGURES IN MOTION *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* TO MAY 30 Paintings and sculptings by Edgar Degas. Info: www.youraga.ca/422-6223.
FOR THE LOVE OF ART *WEST END GALLERY, 12308 JASPER AVE.* FEB 13-25 Group show presenting their most recent paintings. Info. 488-4892
FORGOTTEN LOVE AFFAIRS *LATITUDE 53, 10248-106 ST.* TO FEB 13 Watercolour portraits by Stacey Cann. Info: www.latitude53.org.
FRIENDS AND STUDENTS OF WILLIE WONG *LOFT GALLERY, 590 BROADMOOR BLVD. SHERWOOD PARK* TO FEB 27 Various artwork influenced by the artist. Info: 922-6324.
GROUP SHOW *CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA, 9103-95 AVE.* TO MAR 10 Paintings, sculptures, woodwork, and pottery by 150 artists. Info: 461-3427.
IT HAS BEEN 40 YEARS *RED GALLERY, 9621 WHYTE AVE.* TO APR 30 Oil paintings by Christl Bergstrom honoring 40 years of marriage and family. Info: 498-1984/www.redgallery.ca.
IMAGE MAKER *PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST. ST. ALBERT* FEB 27 Paintings by Robert Dmytruk. Info: 460-4310/www.artsheritage.ca.
IMAGE MAKER *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* TO MAY 30 Portrait photography by Karsh. Info: www.youraga.ca/422-6223.
INGRAVIDA *KAASA GALLERY, 11455-87 AVE.* TO FEB 28 Images by Lisa Tomak.
INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY *EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY, MAIN FLOOR ATRIUM, 10230 JASPER AVE.* TO FEB 24 Info: 492-0166.
LOVE'EM, HATE'EM: CANADIANS AND THEIR POLITICIANS *MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM, 5 ST. ANNE ST, ST. ALBERT* TO FEB 14 Artwork depicting past political leaders. Info: 459-1528.

*www.seemagazine.com



MUCH MORE MUNSCH *ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. TO APR 5* An interactive exhibit which brings some of the author's famous children's stories to life. Info: 453-9100.

THE MURDER OF CROWS *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2, 108 WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE TO MAY 9* An art installation by Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller. Info: www.youtube.com/a/422-6223.

MYSTERY AND MEANING *GALLERY AT MILNER, STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, CHURCHILL SQUARE TO FEB 28* Images by Douglas Mu McGregor.

OPEN STUDIO *VARIOUS LOCATIONS* Recent paintings by Moira Weyrowch. Info: 434-3901

PAINTER'S VISION *JEFF ALLEN GALLERY, STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10839 UNIVERSITY AVE. TO FEB 24* Flower, landscape, and portrait paintings by Cindy Dembicki, Ute Dieder, Jennifer Sally, and Lynne Tupper. Info: 433-5807

ROAD STORIES *HANDCRAFT HOUSE GALLERY, 10310 ELB, 12715-112 ST. TO FEB 13* Artwork by Rachel Hellner. Info: 476-4180.

A SHOW IN THREE ACTS: BARELY THERE, FLOAT, & WISDOM AND BULLFIGHTS *SOLSTICH GALLERY, 10359-82 AVE. TO MAR 31* Drawings and paintings by Maryssa Foucault. Info: 433-1430/www.sidesbowgallery.ca.

SKETCHES OF SYNCHRONICITY *LATITUDE 53, 10248-106 ST. TO FEB 13* A photo based exhibit by Gabriel Curtis-Dumont. Info: www.latitude53.org.

SPRING GROUP EXHIBITION *SCOTT GALLERY, 10411-124 ST. TO FEB 21* Landscape artwork by Lynn Mallin, Party Amplifiers/ Erika Valiulis, Lando O'Neill, and Jacqueline Stehelin. Info: 488-3619.

STORM ROOM *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2, 108 WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE MAY 9* Explorations into the emotive powers of sound by Cardiff and George Bures Miller.

THIRTY *ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL, 10186-106 ST. TO APR 3* 30 pieces and written insights from a selection of long-term, emerging and new members of the The Alberta Craft Council, in celebration of its 30th Anniversary.

THE WORKS-CANVAS WORK *YOUNG WOMEN'S YWCA, 10211-102 AVE. TO AUG 31* Artworks by Justin Shaw.

THEATRE

BEAUTIFUL THING *WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE, 10322-83 AVE. TO FEB 20* Justin Bennett directs Jonathan Harvey's tale of two boys, who, in the middle of the dreary, bleak setting of a London council estate, discover sparks of life and love. Tickets: 439-4759/www.torontotheatre.com

DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIAN'S KIDS *FESTIVAL PLACE, 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK FEB 13-15* Marissa Bingle directs the classic tale of Cruella De Vil and her attempt to capture the Dalmatian puppies for their cherished spotted fur. Tickets: www.festivalplace.ca/box.

THE EARLY BLOOMER *STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 108 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE FEB 12-27* Corinne Howarth directs the story of a flower facing the embarrassing and exciting challenges of growing up faster than her pals. Friday, 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets: 420-0311/www.torontotheatre.ca.

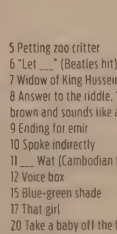
FAITH COUNTY *MACLAB CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 11, ALEXANDRA PLACE, LEDUC FEB 17-20* Kirsten Walker directs the comedic tale that explores the lives of the zany residents of Manitoka, a small town that is located somewhere in the middle of nowhere in the South.

GOOD VIBRATIONS: SUMMER OF '68 *ROBBLATIONS DINNER THEATRE (WEM), TO MAR 13* A teenage boy who is loathing another boring summer meets the ultimate Californian girl, who transforms his holiday into one he'll never forget. Tickets: www.robblations.ca.

I GOOGLE MYSELF *NORTHERN LIGHT THEATRE, 10366-100 ST. FEB 12-21* An insightful and entertaining look into our society's preoccupation with fame and recognition. Info: www.northernlightstheatre.com

L'HOMME DU HASARD (THE UNEXPECTED MAN) *LA CITÉ FRANCOPHONE, 8627-91 ST. TO FEB 19* Yasmina Reza's

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



FROM MILK

WE DERIVE THESE NEW PHRASES.

JONESIN' CROSSWORD by Matt Jones

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ACROSS

1 Type of garden with rocks
4 The Good Witch from "The Wizard of Oz"
10 ___ de mer
13 Double-bladed weapon
14 Tell on
15 She plays Liz on "30 Rock"
16 Chew toy on Batman's utility belt?
18 MIT grad, maybe
19 Sportscaster Dick
20 Like screwball comedies
21 System with paddles and a joystick
24 Explorer Juan Ponce ___
25 "Arrested Development" narrator Howard
[redacted] Fish served in filets
31 Mad scientist who is the enemy of Action Man
32 Prof's admission that someone's helping him temporarily?
35 Soul great Redding
36 Swear like a sailor
37 Pulls a heist on
40 Halloween costume that includes big ears, dark clothing and a bunch of charts?
43 Digital camera variety, for short
45 They'll help serve your Earl Grey
46 ___ Hill (R&B group)
47 Container for stir-fried vegetables?
49 ___ Lateef of jazz
51 Get the engine humming
52 Takes more time?
56 PG&E opponent Brockovich
57 Visit Vancouver, say?
61 Grub
62 Fill with passion
63 Moving vehicle
64 Porker's pad
65 Raptor's grabbers
66 Self-help workshop movement of the 1970s

DOWN

1 Turn sharply
2 Prefix for skeleton
3 Paycheck line
4 Semi-frozen drink similar to an Italian ice
5 Petting zoo critter
6 "Let ___" (Beatles hit)
7 Widow of King Hussein
8 Answer to the riddle, "What's brown and sounds like a bell?"
9 Ending for emir
10 Spoke indirectly
11 ___ Wat (Cambodian temple)
12 Voice box
15 Blue-green shade
17 That girl
20 Take a baby off the bottle
21 Jason's ship
22 Car horn noise
23 Like some sci-fi boots
24 In the most desperate way
27 Tended to a scratch
28 She came between Hillary and Michelle
29 Dos that get picked out
30 Backup group
33 Spicy General on a menu
34 Raw metal source
38 Dull person
39 Double-___ (Oreos variety)
41 Type of convertible
42 Uses of mentally-based propaganda, in CIA-speak
43 Shopping binges
44 Give a good staredown (not!)
48 Groan-inducing jokes
50 Ensign's org.
52 Novelist Jaffe
53 List-ending abbr.
54 Pitcher Hideo
55 Bernanke subj.
57 "___ Smart"
58 5th or Mad., e.g.
59 "___ Boot"
60 Picnic pest

edmonton arts council

call to **artists**

edmonton public art

Call for Community Groups: Request for Proposals

Community Public Art Grants 2010

The Edmonton Arts Council, on behalf of the City of Edmonton, is seeking applications from Edmonton community groups interested in participating in the Community Public Grant Art Program 2010.

Grant: $50,000 CAD (maximum per application)
Deadline: 4:30 pm on Monday, May 3, 2010
Installation: December 2011

Call to Artists: Request for Proposals

Ellerslie Fire Station Public Art Project

The Ellerslie Fire Station public art competition, open to all Canadian visual artists, is held in accordance with the City of Edmonton policy "Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas" (C458B).

Budget: $49,928 CAD (maximum, all inclusive)
Deadline: 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Installation: Spring 2011

Call to Artists: Request for Qualifications

Edmonton Police Service Southwest Division Public Art Project

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) Southwest Division public art competition, open to Canadian and international visual artists, is held in accordance with the City of Edmonton policy "Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas" (C458B).

Budget: $150,000 CAD (maximum, all inclusive)
Deadline: 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Installation: Spring 2011

Quesnell Bridge/Whitemud Freeway Public Art Project

The Quesnell Bridge/Whitemud Freeway public art competition, open to all Canadian and international visual artists, is held in accordance with the City of Edmonton policy "Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas" (C458B).

Budget: $592,500 CAD (maximum, all inclusive)
Deadline: 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Installation: Spring 2011

[redacted]
publicart.edmontonarts.ca and click on Public Art Calls
[redacted]
publicart@[redacted]monton[redacted]rts.ca

edmontonarts.ca

story of a woman who shares a train compartment with on of he favorite authors.
NEVERMORE *CATALYST THEATRE, 8529 GATEWAY BLVD. FEB 13-21* Jonathan Christenson directs Shannon Blanchet, Sheldon Elter, Beth Graham, Ryan Parker, Garett Ross, Vanessa Sabourin, and Scott Shpeley in the musical fairytale about the imaginary life and mysterious death of Edgar Allan Poe. Tickets: www.tixonthesquare.ca.
NEW WORKS FESTIVAL *TIMMS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, 87 AVE & 112 ST. TO FEB 14* Presented by the U of A's Department of Drama. Featuring White Moon Pie, The Juvyline Cubangbang Show, US, Trey, Leah, Qualka, Salt Water, and Tight Rope.
OH SUSANNA: A VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. FEB 13* A Euro-style variety spectacle's salute to St. Valentine and all things romantic. 11 p.m. Info: www.varsconatheatre.com/ohsusanna.
PIRATES OF PENZANCE *JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, 11455-87 AVE. FEB 11* Peter Dala and Robert Herriot direct Gilbert and Sulivan's tale of mishaps and misunderstandings in an attempt at life spent happily ever after. Tickets: www.edmontonopera.com.
SPINE *TIMMS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, 87 AVE & 112 ST. TO FEB 13* Bob Frazer directs James Sanders in Kevin Kerr's story of a young girl who becomes a quadriplegic due to an accident, taking us through the challenge of rehabilitation. Tickets: 492-8710/www.tixonthesquare.ca.
THE SUPER GROOVY '70S *MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE, 16615-109 AVE. TO FEB 14* A tribute to the far-out music and fashion of the '70s music. Tickets: www.mayfieldtheatre.ca.
THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE *TRANSALTA ARTS BARNS, 10330-84 AVE. TO FEB 14* Pamela Schmunk directs Brian Bergum, April Killins, Ben McIvor, Elena Porter, and Tasha Weenk in the story of a city mayor facing a dilemma of choosing between two development companies to invent a fuel system to launch a satellite into space Tortoise Trades, or the mega-corporation, HARE Industries Inc. Info: 409-1910/www.fringetheatre.ca.
THE V.I.P. KIDS SHOW *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. FEB 13* A variety show including music, comedy, and puppets. 11 a.m. Info: 433-6039.
WILDFIRE HIGH SCHOOL IMPROV FESTIVAL *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. TO FEB 20* Hosted by Rapid Fire Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Info: 433-3399.

COMEDY

BIG JAY OAKERSON *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM) TO FEB 14* Tickets: www.thecomicstrip.ca.
BRAD MUISE *THE LAUGH SHOP, 2ND FLOOR, 10368 WHYTE AVE. FEB 11-13* Tickets: www.thelaughshop.ca.
BROWN ON BOURBON *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM)* The Bear's Paul Brown hosts the local talent night. Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomicstrip.ca.
DJ HAZARD *THE LAUGH SHOP, 2ND FLOOR, 10368 WHYTE AVE. FEB 16-21* Tickets: www.thelaughshop.ca.
THE DRUID COMEDY NIGHT *THE DRUID, 11606 JASPER AVE.* Professional and amateur comedians, every Sun @ 9 p.m.
HIT OR MISS MONDAYS *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM)* Amateur comedy. Doors @ 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomicstrip.ca/483-5999.
THE HYDEAWAY COMEDY NIGHT *HYDEAWAY ALL AGES ART SPACE, 10209-100 AVE.* Tuesdays at 9 p.m.
ROBIN CEE *COMEDY FACTORY, #408, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD. FEB 11-13* Thursday and Friday 8:30 p.m. Saturday 8 p.m. Info: 469-4999.
SAM EASTON *YUK YUK'S, CENTURY CASINO FEB 12-13* 8 p.m.
SEAN LECOMBER *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM) FEB 17* With Keith Saranoski and Kelly Dakus.
VALENTINES SHOW *COMEDY FACTORY, #408, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD. FEB 14* With Robin Cee. 8 p.m. Tickets: 469-4999/450-2508.

IMPROV

CHIMPROV *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE.* Hosted by Rapid Fire Theatre. Every Sat except for last Sat of the month. Doors @ 11 p.m. Info: www.rapidfiretheatre.com.
DIE-NASTY *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE.* Live improvised soap opera. Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
THEATRESPORTS *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE.* Weekly improv show hosted by Rapid Fire Theatre. Every Fri. Doors @ 11 p.m. $10 at the door. Info: www.rapidfiretheatre.com.

READINGS & LECTURES

ARTIST'S TALK WITH DANIEL BARROW *THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE. FEB 13* The artist presents his latest manual animation, Every Time I See Your Picture I Cry. 11:30 a.m.
CANADA AND THE WORLD: CURRENT ISSUES *WHITEMUD CROSSING CENTRE, 4211 106 ST. FEB 17* An open public forum. 7 p.m. Info: 421-4871.
CENTRE FOR READING: FROM BOOKS TO FILM *STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* Every Friday at 2 p.m. Info: 496-7000.
LITERARY SALOON *THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE. FEB 11* With new readers monthly. 7 p.m.
POETRY READINGS *ROUGE LOUNGE, 10111-117 ST.* Every Tuesday with local poets. 8 p.m. Info: 902-5900.
ROUGE POETRY *ROUGE LOUNGE, 10111-117 ST.* Tuesdays. Info: 482-5253.
STORY SLAM *BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ, 9624-76 AVE.* 3rd Wed every month. 8 pm. Sign-up 7 pm. First ten writers only, allotted five minutes each. Info: 915-8869.
T.A.L.E.S *CITY ARTS CENTRE, 10943-84 AVE.* A monthly story telling circle. Second Friday of each month. 8 p.m. Info: 932-4409.

EVENTS

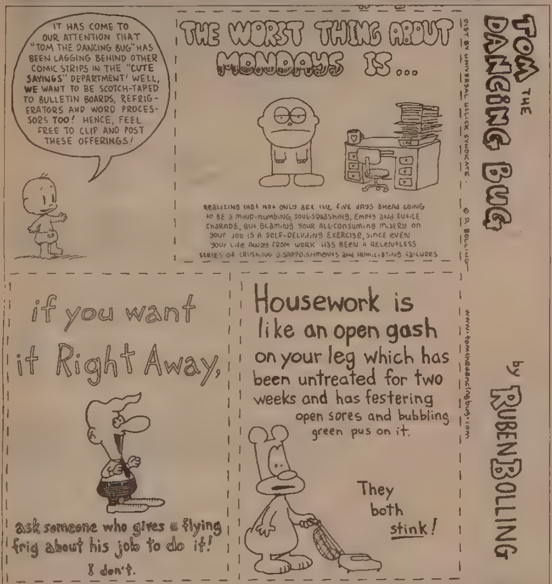
2010 CHINESE NEW YEAR *ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE. FEB 15* Family day celebration including music, dance, and crafts. 12 p.m.
7TH BIRTHDAY BASH! *NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE, 9704-111 AVE. FEB 12* A celebration for the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. Featuring 100 pieces of original art priced at $100 each, and the opening of Refraction, a new exhibit, live music, food, and wine. 6 p.m. Info: 474-7611.
ABORIGINAL FAMILY NIGHT *MILL WOODS LIBRARY, 2331-66 ST.* An evening of food, information, and fun. Every third Tuesday at 6 p.m. Info: 496-1818.
ARTS MARKET *CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE.* Artists and artisans sharing unique gifts with local flavour. Every Sat. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: www.thecarrot.ca.
BO & HOPE FROM DAYS OF OUR LIVES *RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO, WHITEMUD DR. & WINTERBURN RD. ENOCH FEB 13* Meet and greet with the actors from the hit television series. 1 p.m. Tickets: 930-2619.
COMMUNITY ART NIGHT *NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE, 9704-111 AVE. FEB 4* Adult art session. Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 474-7611.
DROP IN YOGA *SHANTI YOGA STUDIO, #2, 10026-102 ST.* Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. Info: 421-9444.
EIGHT-MINUTE DATE SPEED DATING FOR SINGLES *VALLEY ZOO, 13315 BUENA VISTA RD. FEB 18* Ages Groups: 25-35, 35-45, 45-55 and 55-65. Info: 457-853/www.eightminutedate.ca.
FAMILY ART NIGHT *NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE, 9704-111 AVE.* 6:30 p.m. Info: 474-7611.
FAMILY DAY FUN *STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE FEB 15* With activities the whole family can enjoy. 1:15 p.m. Info: www.epl.ca.
FAMILY DAY GLOBAL VILLAGE *SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE FEB 15* 12 p.m. Info: 760-2229/winterlight.ca.
FARMER'S MARKET *ALBERTA AVENUE HALL, 9218-118 AVE.* Every Thu, year round. 2 p.m.
FOR THE LOVE OF WINE *SUTTON PLACE HOTEL, 10235-101 ST. FEB 11* A Fundraiser for Kids Kottage Foundation. With dinner, wine tasting, and live music by Sandro Dominelli. 6:30 p.m. Tickets: 488-2545/www.kidskottage.org.
FREE FAMILY DAY DINNER *LEEFIELD HALL, 7910-36 AVE. FEB 15* Hosted by the Mill Woods Family Resource Centre. 5 p.m. Register at 413-4521.
HEART OF THE CITY *THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE. FEB 12* A fundraising event with local musicians MmmBerta and Aroots Bazaar, DJ's, and a silent auction. 8 p.m. Info: 441-6966.
HEARTS OF FIRE *BOYLE STREET PARK, 103A AVE-95 ST. FEB 13* A mid-winter feast. 3 p.m. Info: 760-2229.
LUNAR NEW YEAR *LOIS HOLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 17650-69 AVE. FEB 13* Lois Hole Library invites all families to celebrate the Lunar New Year with special festive activities. 2 p.m.
MONTHLY VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN POTLUCK *RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE. FEB 14* 5:30 p.m. Info: www.vofa.ca/rawveganedmonton@gmail.com.
MY VINTAGE VALENTINE *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE FEB 14* Make cards and paper crafts or take a stroll through the exhibition. 10 a.m.
OPERA GALA *FAIRMONT HOTEL MACDONALD, 10065-100 ST. FEB 14* A fundraising event with a performance by Canadian tenor Michael Burgess and a silent auction featuring jewellery from Birks. 6 p.m. Info: 760-2698/www.edmontonopera.com.
SPORTSWORLD ROLLER SKATING DISCO *SPORTSWORLD, 13710-104 ST.* Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday at 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. Sunday at 1 p.m. Info: www.sports-world.ca.
WINTER LIGHT FESTIVAL *VARIOUS LOCATIONS TO MAR 13* Info: www.winterlight.ca.

MEETINGS

AWA 12 STEP SUPPORT GROUP *BRAESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, #6, BERNARD DR., ST. ALBERT* A weekly meeting to support members of alcoholic and dysfunctional families. Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION *CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION #800, 10045-111 ST.* Weekly drop-in support group. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 414-6311.
FAMILY PEER SUPPORT DROP IN GROUP *HARLEYCOURT BUILDING, #800, 10045-111ST.* A support group for individuals who know someone living with mental illness. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

LEARNING

ARTIST AT HEART *PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT FEB 13* Drop-in art class for adults. 2 p.m. Info: 460-4310.
AWAKENING THE RIVER OF YOUR HEARTSONG *DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO, 7252-101 AVE.* Vocal improvisation with Marcus Fung. Mondays at 7 p.m. Info: 485-2515.
BEYOND THE TREES *TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE11211-142 ST. TO APR 5* An exhibit focusing on the natural heritage of our varied forests in Canada. Info: www.edmontonscience.com.
CARROT WRITERS' CIRCLE *CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE.* A circle to generate ideas and write. Last Tuesday of every month is a critique circle. 7 p.m.
COMEDY WORKSHOPS *THE LAUGH SHOP, 2ND FLOOR, 10368 WHYTE AVE.* With professional headliner. Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Info: 476-1010.
FACILITATED DRUM CIRCLES *DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO, 7252-101 AVE.* Learn traditional West African hand drumming. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Info: 485-2515.
FAMILY SUPPORT EDUCATION GROUP *HARLEYCOURT BUILDING, #800, 10045-111 ST.* Drop In Family Peer Support Group as peer volunteers. Weekly 2 hour training sessions. Tuesdays. Info: 414-6311.
HEART DANCE *WESTMOUNT FITNESS CLUB, 12840-109 AVE.* Exploring creative expression of the body through music. Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. Info: 485-2515.
JOB SHADOW WEEK *UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CAMPUS FEB 16-19* Hosted by th U of A. Info: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/capsemployers/JobShadow.cfm/492-6759.
LATIN NIGHT *FUNKY BUDDHA, 10341 WHYTE AVE.* Dance lessons. Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Info: 433-9676.
LEARN MORRIS DANCE *#19, KEEGANO HALL, RICHFIELD RD. & 36A AVE.* Free Lessons. Saturdays at 10 a.m. Info: 475-1826.
MARIMBA LESSONS *DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO, 7252-101 AVE.* Thursdays at 7 p.m. Info: 485-2515.
MEDITATION CLASSES *AMITABHA KADAMPA BUDDHIST CENTRE, 11148-84 AVE.* Mondays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Info: 660-1054.
OLD TYME FIDDLE JAM *PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL, 10860-57 AVE.* Free fiddle lessons. Mondays at 7 p.m. Info: 456-8510.
PAINTING BOOT CAMP *PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT FEB 13* A series of six painting lessons teaching painting skills, colour theory, tonality, composition. 9:30 p.m. Info: 460-4310
PRESERVING THE ART OF BEAUTIFUL HANDWRITING *WHITEMUD CROSSING LIBRARY, 4211-106 ST. FEB 11* An evening with the Edmonton Calligraphic Society. Guests will enjoy demonstrations, receive personalized bookmarks and view art work while learning about the calligraphic organization. 7 p.m.
SCREEN PRINTING PATTERNS TO SOFT SCULPTURE *HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY, 3RD FLR, 10215-112 ST.* Art class hosted by Stephanie Jonsson. 6 p.m. Register: 426-4180.
SWING DANCE AT SUGAR FOOT STOMP *ORANGE HALL, 10335-84 AVE.* Beginner lessons followed by dance. Every Sat. 8 p.m.
TANGO CLASSES *ORANGE HALL, 10335-84 AVE.* Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 905-8505.
TRANQUILITY MEDITATION AND CHENREZIG PRAC-



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STAGE STRUCK!
2010 Regional One-Act Play Festival
Including works by • Michele Vance Hehir • Michael Beamish • Gerald Osborn
Chad Carlson • Jacqueline Lamb • Phil Kreisel • Barbara North • Elaine May
Adjudicated by Geoffrey Brumlik
Friday February 26, 7 pm
Saturday February 27, 1 pm and 7 pm
WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE
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Three-session Festival pass $28 (Students/seniors $24)
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TIX-on-the-Square, 780-420-1757, www.tixonthesquare.ca
Alberta Foundation for the Arts
SEE

• www.seemagazine.com

TICE *KARMA TASHI LING, 10502-70 AVE.* With Ani Kunzang. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Sundays at ■ a.m. Info: 633-6157/ www.karmatashiling.ca.

WITH A LATIN TWIST *ENCORE CLUB, #116, 957-FIR ST.* Salsa dance lessons. Thursdays at 9 p.m.

"SALSA ROCKS" THURSDAYS *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.* Dance lessons. Cuban Salsa DJ to follow. 8 p.m.

QUEER

BOOK WORM'S BOOK CLUB *SECOND CUP, 112 ST. & JASPER AVE.* Every Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. Info: bookworm@teamedmonton.ca.

COFFEE & OPEN MIC NIGHT *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Saturdays at 4 p.m. Info: 488-3234

D.I.Y. WEDNESDAYS *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Various do it yourself projects. 3 p.m. Info: 488-3234

DRAG QUEEN PERFORMANCE SHOW *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* Sundays

GLBT SPORTS AND RECREATION-BOOTCAMP *ST. ALPHONSUS, 11624-81 ST.* Mondays at 7 p.m. Info: bootcamp@teamedmonton.ca.

GAMES & COFFEE *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Thursdays at 4 p.m. Info. 488-3234.

LIVING POSITIVE *# 404, 10408-124 ST.* Confidential support group for people living with HIV. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Info. 877-975-9448/488-5768.

MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION *FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN (U OF A CAMPUS), RM 3-18, 8406-91 ST.* A program for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in English, French, and African languages. Third and fourth Saturday of each month. 9 a.m. Info: 490-7332.

MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* A social discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgendered men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other. Every Sun. 7 p.m. Info: robwells780@hotmail.com.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Every Wednesday except ■ the first Wednesday of every month. 7 p.m. Info: 488 3234.

SAME GENDER SPEED DATING VALENTINES EVENT! *VALLEY ZOO, 13315 BUENA VISTA RD. FEB 17.* Speed dating for single lesbians and gay males. Info: 221-8535/www.samegenderdating.com.

SENIORS DROP-IN *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* A social and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities to talk, have tea and offer each other support. Every Tue and Thu. 1 p.m. Info. tuff@shaw.ca.

ACTIVISM

EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION *DV8 TAVERN, 8307-99 ST.* An activist arts organization, seeking socially conscious artists, and production volunteers on an ongoing basis. Wed at 7 p.m. Info: 434-9236 or contact@edmontonsmallpress.org.

PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE *HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 15120A STONY PLAIN RD.* A youth group promoting anti-racist and diversity workshops. Mondays 5-7 p.m. Education North 1-104, U of A Campus Info: 425-4644 or www.naarc.org/Youth/index.htm.

REBOOT ALBERTA: BEYOND LEFT & RIGHT IN POLITICS *VILLAGE LIFESTYLES, 10429-79 AVE. FEB 17.* An evening exploring the new progressive politics possible in our province. 7 p.m.

THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES *STEEPS TEA LOUNGE, 11116 WHYTE AVE.* Every Tuesday. Screenings free. Info: 988-8105 or michael@steepstea.com

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

0515. Notices

Private Notice
This is a private notice to all private men and women, that a non-commercial ecclesiastical Agreement of the Facts has been reached with no dispute forthcoming by the private man Gordon Thomas Haig and the private woman Rubina Murray Haig. Full text of this agreement may be viewed ■ http://www.allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com

190. Announcements

Eight Minute Date Speed Dating for Singles!
Animal Attractions Speed Dating Event at the Valley Zoo Saturday Feb 13, 2010
Ages Groups: 25-35, 35-45, 45-55 and 55-65
$40 ticket includes: Speed Dating, beverages, appetizers and encounters with the animals www.eightminutedate.ca or call 780-457-8535

200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

ADDITIONAL INCOME DESIRED? Looking for 3 self motivated people to teach online free training full support Flexible hours, great ethical income, eco inspired www.greeninyourworld.com

DO YOU have gravel/aggregate deposits on your property? We specialize in marketing, mining, managing and reclaiming aggregate resources Contact Tom 1-888-784-4400 for more information

DO YOU NEED to move to the Okanagan? Here is a great Ma and Pa business Peachland Video Call Mel at 250-215-5185 or at mellerniky.com RLPKelowna

FUN, PROFIT, SUCCESS Great Canadian Dollar Store, a dollar store leader since 1993 has new franchise opportunities coast to coast Call today 1-877-388-0123 ext 229; www.dollarstores.com

9700. Support Groups

ARE DRUGS A PROBLEM? Narcotics Anonymous can help. 780-421-4429/www.earra.ca

410. Education/Training

HAVE EMR TRAINING? Enhance your life-saving skills with Lakeland College's emergency medical technician program, offering primarily online Start April or September Phone 1-800-661-6490, visit www.lakelandcollege.ca

Humanities 101 @ The Learning Centre (10116 105 Ave.) presents a new course "Mapping Community." Tuesdays 5:30-8pm. Contact Joanne @ jmuzak@ualberta.ca to register

410. Education/Training

MASSAGE CAREER Train at our highly regarded, progressive school and graduate with confidence! Excellence in education, guaranteed! 403-346-1018 www.albertainstituteofmassage.com

REFLEXOLOGY CLASSES fun and relaxed learning Good for the sole Register now limited space Starting March 27 2010 Phone Edwards & Holloway Health and Wellness 403-340-1330

1005. Help Wanted

LOCAL PEOPLE NEEDED to work from home online $500-4500 PT, FT CALL Eva 780-798-3482

1070. Child Care

Full-time child care (9-5 Mon-Fri) needed for 12 month boy. Live-out. Experience with young children a must. Competitive wages ($10/hr) and public transport pass. Downtown location. If you are kind, caring and gentle, we want to meet you! Send CV and references to blueberry_edmonton@hotmail.com

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

#1 IN PARDONS Remove your criminal record Express Pardons offers the fastest pardons, lowest prices, and it's guaranteed BBB accredited Free consultation Toll free 1-866-416-6772. www.ExpressPardons.com

BUSY FLAT RATE Chrysler dealership, 40 minutes North of Edmonton requires Journeyman Service Technician 3rd, 4th year apprentice considered Chrysler Diesel an asset but not necessary Apply Brown's Chrysler Ltd 10447 - 104 Avenue, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2E4 Email dalem@brownschrysler.com Phone 1-780-349-5566, Fax 1-780-349-6493; Attn Dale Marshall

CHEAP TELEPHONE RECONNECT! Low rates, fast connections, reliable service Internet & long distance offered Ask about special discounts! Call now - Phone Factory Reconnect 1-877-336-2274 www.phonefactory.ca

CJS AGRO SERVICES looking for maintenance personnel and operator for dry fertilizer blending plant. For more info contact Corey 403-787-3931 or fax resume 403-787-2395

CLASS 1 or 3 truck drivers Require valid oilfield safety tickets Paying top wages, benefits. Swan Hills area Fax resume to 780-333-4397

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

CRIMINAL RECORD? Only Pardon Services Canada has 20 years experience guaranteeing record removal Call 1-8-NOW-PARDON 1-866-972-7366 www.removeyourrecord.com

DO YOU WANT to add ■ your income? Hannas Seeds is looking for an agent to sell forage seed in your area. If you enjoy agriculture, have a place to store 55 lb bags and a willingness to succeed, please call Trish McLeod for more information at 1-800-661-1529. Hurry as spring is just around the corner!

ENSIGN ENERGY Services Inc. is looking for experienced Drilling Rig, Well Servicing & Coring personnel for all position levels. Ensign Recruitment Center, 2001 - 4 Street, Nisku, AB T9E 7W6 Telephone 1-888-ENSIGN-0 Fax 780-955-6160 Email hr@ensignenergy.com

FULL TIME Meat Cutter required ■ Sobeys in Olds Alberta Benefits Phone 403-556-3113 or fax resume to 403-556-8652 Attention Rob

FULLY LICENSED GM Technician wanted for Vernon dealership. Previous experience required. Fax resume Attention Darren, 250-275-7075 or phone 250-558-3993

GREAT EARNING Potential New and Used Sales Manager at Big Lakes Dodge, Northern Alberta. Privately owned. Full benefits. Contact Chris 780-523-5007 or fax 780-523-2556

HAVE FUN making money as an actor, actress or film extra on Calgary movie sets. All ages required. 403-521-0077

HYBRID VEHICLE SAFETY training for first responders. Hybrid identification, high-voltage disarming, hazards, safety gear, etc. Internationally accepted training program Grande Prarie Regional College. 1-866-378-9675 www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview/tradesandsafety.htm

JACK OR JILL of all trades! Explore over 50 trades. Learn entry-level skills. Work experience in trade of your choice. Cooperative Trades Orientation GPRC Fairview College Campus. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview

JOURNALISTS Graphic Artists, Marketing and more. Alberta's weekly newspapers are looking for people like you. Post your resume online. Free. Visit: www.awna.com/resumes_add.php

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

JOURNEYMEN HEAVY DUTY MECHANIC- NACG is looking for Heavy Duty Mechanics who will be working on off-road equipment. Qualifications: Alberta or Inter provincial Journeyman ticket, off road and mining equipment experience, valid driver's license and proficiency in verbal and written English. Must apply online at www.nacg.ca

OUR LARGE FARM team needs a full-time mechanic/operator to help repair, maintain and operate large farm equipment. Farm experience required. Class 1A an asset. Please send resume to fax 306-778-3938 or email amberfield@sasktel.net

PRODUCE MANAGER OPPORTUNITY in Brooks Alberta. The Warehouse Market at Brooks is currently recruiting for a Produce Manager. Reporting directly to the Store Manager, the Produce Manager is responsible for all aspects of operating a successful produce department including scheduling, ordering, receiving, merchandising, gross margins, sales ratios, expense controls and supervising the produce department. Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills are essential. The successful candidate must have a minimum of three years of retail produce experience. TG offers a competitive compensation and benefit package as well as the opportunity for personal and professional development. If you have the skills and abilities to meet our expectations and want ■ progress with a dynamic organization, please forward your resume in confidence to: Senior Human Resources Officer, The Grocery People Ltd., 14505 Yellowhead Trail, Edmonton AB T5L 3C4 Fax 780-447-5781, Email: humanresources@tgp.ca.

PROVINCE-WIDE CLASSIFIEDS. Reach over 1 million readers weekly. Only $259 + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details.

SERVICEMEN NACG is looking for Servicemen to perform all inclusive oil changes (all levels of PM) in the Fort McMurray area. Qualifications: experience servicing large mining equipment. Class 1 or 3 with air brake endorsement; driver's license, CSTS, OSSA, WHMIS, TDG, First Aid and proficiency in verbal and written English. Must apply online at www.nacg.ca

SO MANY TRADES - So hard to choose. Explore over 50 trades. GPRC Fairview College Campus. Work experience in trade of your choice. Cooperative Trades Orientation. 1-888-999-7882. www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

TERRITORY SALES Representative Employer looking for salesperson with knowledge ■ drilling rigs and related equipment. Metal fabricating, sandblasting and painting knowledge or experience would be an asset. Effective communicator with ability to maintain current accounts while pursuing new clients. Apply to Do All Metal Fabricating Ltd. Apply ■ Fax 1-306-634-8389. Email chitzgerald@doallmetal.com

TRADES ■ WHERE It's at! Gain entry-level skills as a machinist, millwright or welder. Challenge apprenticeship exam. Grande Prairie Regional College 1-888-999-7882. www.gprc.ab.ca

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton is currently recruiting volunteers. Please contact Volunteer Services at (780) 917-6661 for more information

Canadian Cancer Society needs volunteers to give rides to cancer patients contact Hayley at 780-437-8418

ElderCare Edmonton is currently seeking volunteers to help seniors at our day programs with things like crafts, card games and socializing. Please contact Renée at 780-434-4747 Ext 4

Flower handlers and delivery drivers needed by March 1. Sign up! www.irisca mpaign.ca or call 780-720-3107

Habitat for Humanity requires 2 Volunteer Drivers for construction deliveries. For more information, contact Angela arobichaud@edmonton.hfh.org or 780-479-3566 ext 223

VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR PET! Daytime needed. To learn more visit www.chimoproject.ca.

1700. Employment Wanted

CAREGIVERS/NANNIES with 7 months training and/or one year experience are looking for live-in employment with elderly, disabled or families needing child care 780-709-0005 www.worldwidecaregivers.ca

CHILI'S TEXAS GRILL
requires immediately
Kitchen Helpers FT $10.59/hr
to assist in maintaining kitchens incl. a variety of duties
Cooks - FT $12.80/hr
Experienced Cooks required. Graduates of culinary school or a min. of 2 years work experience. Apply with resume to the nearest Chili's Texas Grill or e-mail chilis_job_edmonton@hotmail.com

2001. Acting Classes

AUDITIONHELL
Western Canada's top rated film and tv acting workshops. Featuring casting director Deb Green, ongoing classes. Call 403-807-1960 or register at www.auditionhell.com

2005. Artist to Artist

Learn to light with off camera flash!
Feb 19@ 6 PM, 27 & 28th at 1:30PM
Space is limited. RSVP 10575 - 115 ■ (3ten Studio) 530 info@hidsonphoto.com or call 780-465-9232

Musical theater company needs strong (preferably older) tenor for production at Arden in April. Paid position. 780-460-2937

private shisha (non tobacco)hookah smoke for artists, crafters and artisans in new downtown bohemian art boutique. limited space. please rsvp ■ modaboho@gmail.com for date and time

Strong actor aged 30s-50s needed to play male lead in an amateur production of Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit, June 11-13. If interested contact Bob at 780-454-8606

Wild Oranges Theatre Company is currently holding open auditions for Fringe play. Male and female actors needed. Call Kayla at 780-217-9994 to schedule an audition

2010. Musicians Available

HELP! Edmonton's rock scene seem stunningly DULL! Need to play with experimental band. Influences Ex-Girl, Baffin Island Party. Bill 780-633-3849

Sound Systems available to clubs or commercial premises, lease or purchase t_rex_audio@shaw.ca

Sound Systems available to clubs or commercial premises, lease or purchase t_rex_audio@shaw.ca

2020. Musicians Wanted

3 piece rock band looking for 30+ male vocalist/rhythm guitar Contact 477-3708

5 years running instrumental band looking for bass player have to be available 8hrs/week not an option and ready for tour/out of town gig. serious inquires only 780-906-0780

Bassist (vocals a plus) needed for original hard rock band w/ some covers infl. Velvet Revolver/ STP/ Seether/ Chains/ Nirvana etc. Serious, only please Call 780-996-3571

2020. Musicians Wanted

Female Metal Vocalist Seeking Band To Jam/ Record! Influences: Maiden, Megadeth, Disturbed, Mudvayne, Alice Cooper. Linden Park. Please Contact Rand 's 780-530-9797

Guitar / Bassist Needed!
BASS PLAYER REQUIRED FOR MULTI DATE MULTI PROVINCE TOUR WITH ALBERTA SINGER SONGWRITER. SUMMER 2010! LOCAL GIGS STARTING IMMEDIATELY! ORIGINAL-COVER SPLIT BOOKING, TRANSPORTATION, TRAILER AND TOUR FUNDING IN PLACE TO COMPLETE THIS RHYTHM SECTION. EXCELLENT GEAR AND ATTITUDE REQUIRED. VOCALIST AN ASSET! BASS PLAYER WILL BE WORKING WITH ACCOMPLISHED STUDIO/TOUR DRUMMER OF ■ YEARS EXPERIENCE. AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD THROUGH TO APRIL. AGES 19 - 30. GENERAL ALT HARD ROCK. Listen http://www.reverbnation.com/greywood85 Contact greywood85@hotmail.com

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2060. Music Services

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2200. Massage Therapy

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3010. Auctions

ANTIQUE AND COIN Auction! Quality antiques/collectibles All categories 11 a.m. Saturday February 13 Coin/Currency sale 6:15p.m. Friday, February [illegible]. Wainwright, Alberta Scribner Auction, 780-842-5666 www.scribnernet.com

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AUCTIONS DONE RIGHT! Whether it's equipment, real estate, livestock or a complete farm dispersal. For a free auction proposal contact Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers today! 1-800-491-4494 or rbauction.com

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MEIER GUN AUCTION. Saturday, March 6, 11 a.m. 6016 - 72A Avenue, Edmonton. Over 250 guns - selling all classes of handguns, rifles and shotguns, ammo and miscellaneous. Call Meier Auction to consign 780-440-1860

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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3240. Travel/Trade

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3400. Pets & Supplies

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4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

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5100. Houses For Sale

BUILDING NEW home/cottage? Factory direct prefabricated systems inventory liquidation - save 50%+ while they last. Green-R-Panel - 100's of dreams delivered to happy families. 1-800-871-7089. Sacrifice from $9,975!

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SELLING BY RITCHIE BROS Unreserved Auction March 31 - (1) proposed country residential acreage 23 parcels [illegible] farmland with surface lease revenue and 2,230.58 +/- acres grazing lease in Alberta/Special Areas East (near Oyen, Alberta) 4 bedroom cedar [illegible] home, shop, quonsets, barn. Also selling 2002 Regent Home Systems [illegible] x 80 feet, 3 bedroom manufactured home. For more info, 780-218-5788 or www.rbauction.com.

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5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

20' WIDE GOURMET kitchen 22' wide front covered porch 14' 16' & 20' wide lakehouse and multi section modulars $5000 in factory direct discounts. All [illegible] one place. Best Buy Homes Red Deer 1-877-396-5564 Airdrie 1-877-275-5555

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5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

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6100. Cars

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7245. Misc. Services

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9300. Adult Talk

7245. Misc. Services

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9005. Personals

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O.J [illegible] D.J call 587-784-9876

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SAVAGE (cont'd from p. 30)

pretending to go into a MMF situation solely for his girlfriend's pleasure is a recipe for disaster. As a bisexual woman myself, I find it pathetic that this guy can't suck it up and tell his girlfriend that he's interested in having sex with men. As you've said to other people in similar situations, he's better off telling his girlfriend the truth and seeing if she's into the idea of threesomes or polyamory or what have you. Maybe she's completely GGG for the whole thing — or maybe she'd rather not be used by two liars looking to scratch an itch.

Flippant Answer Isn't Legit

They can't all be gems, FAIL, and that response sucked balls. Consider it withdrawn. And for the record: Yes to honesty, yes to the dude telling his girlfriend he's bi, and yes to angry readers calling me on my fails, FAIL. My response was intended to be tongue-in-cheek; but it was head-in-ass. My apologies.

So the Oscar nominations just came out. The same question plagues me every year — both at nomination time and when the awards roll around. How many people do you think have been fucked with an Oscar? I mean, it's shaped just right and so associated with power, fantasy, etc. that it's just gotta happen, and I'm betting pretty often. Have you heard any news along these lines? Do you think I'm off base?

Hoping Every Lovely Little Oscar Gets Oiled Really Good Evoking Orgasms Up Starbutts

First, a programming note: When Savage Love readers noticed that I was turning sign-offs into acronyms to save space, they began crafting sign-offs that resulted in amusing and/or revealing acronyms, e.g., PROS, ERIC, FAIL. But long sign-offs, even if they make for terrific acronyms, don't save space. So limit your creative sign-off to no more than five or six words, dear readers, if you want to see it in print. (I'm making an exception for HELLOGORGEOUS for reasons that will be immediately apparent to anyone who's ever had a cock in his pants and his mouth simultaneously.)

Okay, HELLOGORGEOUS, your letter arrived on the day I had the distinct pleasure/honor of hanging out with a couple of people who just so happen to have four — four! — Oscars on a shelf in their offices. Spooky! They laughed when I showed them your letter. Not because they had fucked themselves with their Oscars, HELLOGORGEOUS, but because the first thing they observed about their Oscars was that they were, indeed, "shaped just right." (I thought the shoulders were a bit wide, personally, but the base was flared, which is what you want with an insertion toy.)

I didn't press them on whether they had confirmed their suspicions — we'd only just met — but rest assured, HELLOGORGEOUS, if it can be stuffed in someone's ass and/or twat, however inadvisable said stuffing might be, someone somewhere has shoved the thing — Coke bottle, Oscar statuette, Scott Brown action figure — into an ass and/or twat.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage. mail@savagelove.net

ASTROLOGY · FEB. 11-17 · BY THE KID

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18)
Whether you know it or not, you have magical healing powers hidden inside you somewhere. You've just gotta bring 'em out. Although you're not sure how to do it, there is someone you know who can help see you through it. All, you've gotta do is ask!

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MARCH 20)
Good news for you 'cause the Moon's in your sign while She's takin' her vacation time. This means it's a perfect period for you to reflect on whether what you're doin' is karmically correct. Then you'll know exactly what to do after the weekend, when your life starts anew!

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)
As far as you Aries are concerned, standin' on tradition's got a hollow ring. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, but when it can't be repaired, it's time to nix it. It don't matter how long it's been around, get rid of it this week if its construction ain't sound!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)
It seems like forever you've been climbin' these stairs; now you can see the top 'cause you're almost there. However, the climb has left you thoroughly de-juiced and right about now you could use a boost. Well, this week, don't be afraid to ask 'cause someone you know is up to the task!

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20)
If you're strictly all about the Bordens, your soul'll get choked by greed, and if you only think with your heart, you'll lack lots of things you need. Torn between these two, you're not sure how to proceed. This week, if you use your talents, you'll be able to strike a balance!

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)
If you feel like happiness is slippin' away, don't worry, it ain't really happenin' that way. What's really goin' on is that you're not confident of winnin' in the new game you're beginnin'. Who cares? It's your big chance. Just 'cause you don't know the steps don't mean you can't dance!

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22)
Your week'll kinda be like findin' a $100 bill layin' in the street. You could save it, but it didn't come from your sweat, so why be stingy with it? When you've got a surprise surplus, don't be afraid to spend 'cause you can't take it with you in the end!

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22)
Don't get so hung up on appearances this week, especially yours. If you really wanna win, why worry 'bout whether you're lookin' like a nice person or not? At worst, your name'll be cursed, but this week's the time to think of No.1 first!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22)
As far as you're concerned, the moon ain't on your side over the weekend and you're ripe to get burned. You have to be extra careful to dot all your i's and cross all your t's or you could cut yourself off at your own knees. This week, take special care to remain ultra-aware!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21)
Ambition can be the fast lane to perdition 'cause you're much more likely to make a deal with the Devil if you wanna advance your current social level. Don't be so quick to take the bait. This week, say "No" to greed and hate 'cause once you're bitten, it's too late!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21)
Havin' a vision ain't hard to do — where the work comes in is makin' it come true. That's why, this week, no matter how hard it gets, you don't wanna throw in the towel just yet. When obstacles come face to face, remember: Slow 'n' steady wins the race!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19)
You asked for a sign and now you've got one. Except it says "detour" and you're not sure whether it's real or another one o' Wile E. Coyote's attempts to trick you. Don't be afraid to take that turn, but keep your eyes 'n' ears open to avoid gettin' burned!

You can contact The Kid at cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com

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SEX • ADVICE

Wife's Old Porn Movies Could Be A Shock

SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE

WHAT IF HER SEX-TAPE PARTNER TURNS OUT TO BE MUCH BIGGER AND BETTER?

A few years before my wife and I met, she made porn with her boyfriend at the time. He intended to start a pay-per-view website but never launched it. I was a bit upset when she told me, but then I remembered that I enjoy porn, and the idea of seeing the hottest woman I've ever met – and am now married to – doing porn might be really enjoyable, even though I wouldn't want her sleeping with anyone else now.

I realize that to get these tapes I'd have to contact the ex and that might be a bad idea. What do you think?

Torn Over Porn

Um … what does she think? The wife? Have you asked her? Does she want you to see the porn she made with her ex? Does she want to have any contact – even if you handle the negotiations – with her ex?

If she's cool with it, and thinks the ex will be cool with it, by all means ask for the tapes. But hold on to my e-mail address, TOP, just in case her ex is bigger than you, appears to be better in bed, clearly provided your girlfriend with more shattering orgasms, etc., and you have a careful-what-you-wish-for/no-one-could've-predicted meltdown and need someone to talk you off the ledge.

I see women prostitutes who are over 30 and independent. Twice in the last five years, the woman I was seeing turned out to be a post-op transsexual. They were both nice people, and I wish them well. But I prefer nature's own vaginas. Some TSs disclose; some don't. Some wind up getting outed on bulletin boards and trashed. I am sure it limits their income. What are the rules?

Prefers Really Original Sex

There are no rules in an illegal and unregulated marketplace, PROS, although I'm not sure how "truth in packaging" provisions could be enforced if prostitution were legal and regulated. So caveat emptor, boys, and try to mix a little empathy in with your emptoring. Many TS sex workers are engaged in what social workers call "survival prostitution" – they're marginalized, they don't have familial or societal support, and they're selling sex to keep roofs over their heads – so they're not duping you for shits and giggles.

And there are worse things than accidentally sticking your dick in a woman who was born into a man's body, PROS. Did you catch Charlize Theron's Academy Award-winning performance in Monster?

I have been in a nonmonogamous marriage for several years. We've had a lot of fun. My only gripe is that she is allowed to have solo adventures and I am not. When I protest, she says that she would rather stop having solo experiences than allow me to as well. This is little comfort, as I enjoy her having her own experiences. My wife is a lovely woman, and I don't want to risk any damage to my marriage or family life (we have two wonderful kids). But it is clear to me now that I require a little safe, NSA exploration on my own every once in a while. What's a boy to do?

Equal Rights In Coitus

Hearing about the wife's solo adventures gives you a boner – that is what you meant by "I enjoy her having her own experiences," right? – while the prospect of your solo adventures has the opposite effect on the wife, i.e., the thought doesn't give her a girl boner. So while you rightly perceive her solo adventuring as unfair, ERIC, there's something in those solo adventures for you, i.e., lots of boy boners, while there's nothing in your proposed solo adventures for her, i.e., no girl boners.

Now life isn't fair, as I hope your mama warned you, and in an open relationship, life's unfairness can manifest itself in one partner agreeing to less freedom of action in order to accommodate the other's insecurities, irrationalities, insanities, etc. If the unfairness of it all is unacceptable to you, ERIC, accept your wife's offer to terminate her solo adventures. Hopefully she'll miss them as much as you will, and in short order she'll agree to your having solo adventures in order to start having her own again.

NOW LIFE ISN'T FAIR, AS I HOPE YOUR MAMA WARNED YOU, AND IN AN OPEN RELATIONSHIP, LIFE'S UNFAIRNESS CAN MANIFEST ITSELF IN ONE PARTNER AGREEING TO LESS FREEDOM OF ACTION IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE OTHER'S INSECURITIES, IRRATIONALITIES, INSANITIES, ETC.

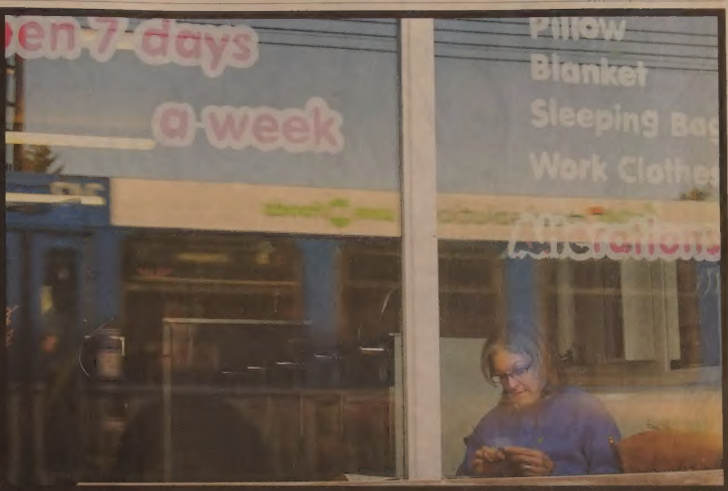
I'm a longtime fan of your column and agree with you 99 per cent of the time, and I'm usually annoyed when you run counter-arguments from angry readers. Alas, I think I'm one of those folks today. Your advice to Horny Homo two weeks ago was kind of messed up. While I agree that some careful wording is needed when suggesting a threesome for the first time, a closeted bi guy

SAVAGE cont'd on p. 29

INTERSECTIONS

PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

t5m



Charlotte Hunt catches up on her knitting while she waits for her horse blanket to dry at the Easy Coin laundry on 124th Street.
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